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Man holds daughter's funeral for eloping

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Foreign investors pull out ₹18,000 crore amid tariffs

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Rohit, Kohli phenomenal in ODIs: Sourav amid exit buzz

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

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Encounter breaks out between forces & terrorists in J&K

JAMMU, 10 AUG

An encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said. The security forces had launched a search operation in Dool area of the hilly district following specific information about the presence of terrorists, they said. On noticing the security search parties, the hiding terrorists, believed to be two in number, opened fire, leading to a gunfight, they added. It said the alert troops, while carrying out an intelligence-based operation, have established contact with terrorists in the early hours on Sunday and exchanged gunfire. *—PTI*

2 men promised Uddhav EVM win in M'rashtra: Raut

MUMBAI, 10 AUG

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut has echoed claims made by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, alleging that two individuals promised Uddhav Thackeray victory "through EVMs" in up to 65 challenging seats ahead of the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections. Raut stated that these same individuals had approached Thackeray during the Lok Sabha polls, but Thackeray declined their offer, asserting his faith in the electoral process. "They told us to assign them 60-65 difficult seats and promised victory through EVMs," Raut claimed. Pawar also revealed he introduced these individuals to Rahul Gandhi, who dismissed the suggestions. *—PTI*

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INDIA bloc to field joint candidate for VP elections

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

The INDIA bloc intends to field a joint candidate in the upcoming vice presidential elections, with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge actively consulting opposition parties to reach a consensus. Sources indicated a strong sentiment within the bloc that the opposition should contest to send a political message. While no formal discussions have taken place regarding potential candidates, back-channel talks are ongoing, with Kharge reaching out to various parties. Some members, however, believe the bloc should wait for the BJP to announce its candidate. Kharge is set to host the bloc leaders on Monday for dinner on Monday. *—PTI*

>>>>More one Page 3

Rajnath: 'boss' Trump doesn't like India's growth

RAISEN, 10 AUG

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday described India's economy as the world's most "dashing and dynamic" and said some people who have the attitude of "we are everyone's boss" are not liking it. Singh's comments come amid high tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on goods imported from India. The speed with which India is moving ahead, no power in the world can stop it from becoming a big power globally, Singh said in his address in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district. The Defence Minister, without naming anyone, said some people are not liking the rapid development of India. *—PTI*

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PM launches Yellow Line, 3 Vande Bharat trains

Modi laid foundation stone for the ₹15K cr Orange Line

BENGALURU, 10 AUG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the much-awaited Yellow Line of Bangalore Metro Rail, laid the foundation for the Orange line and also flagged off 3 Vande Bharat Express trains in Bangalore.

The Prime Minister took a metro ride from RV Road (Ragigudda) to Electronic City metro station along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

The new facility is expected to ease traffic congestion in several heavily congested corridors like Hosur Road, Silk Board Junction, and Electronics City Junction. The over 19km route from RV Road to Bommasandra of Bangalore Metro Phase-2 project worth around Rs 7,160 crore has 16 stations, officials said. However, the State Congress claimed that the Centre only provided 20 per cent of the funds for the project against the 50 per cent that it was supposed to.

PM Narendra Modi, CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar travel in Namma Metro after inaugurating Yellow Line on Sunday *PHOTO: SALAR*

With the Yellow Line, the operational metro rail network in Bengaluru will increase to over 96km.

Three trains will operate at an interval of 25 minutes, with the frequency increasing to 10 minutes later, Shivakumar had earlier said.

Modi also laid the foundation stone for Phase-3 of Bangalore Metro Rail project worth over Rs 15,610 crore.

The total route length of the Metro Phase 3 project, also known as the Orange Line, will be more than 44km with 31 elevated stations. Phase-3 will have two corridors: JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura (32.15km) and Hosahalli to Kadabagere (12.5km).

Modi said Operation Sindoor showed India's ability to bring Pakistan to its knees. He attributed the operation's success to the power of technology and the strength of 'Make in India' in the defence sector.

Modi added that India is moving fast towards becoming the third major economy in the world, days after US President Donald Trump's "dead economy" jibe. *—PTI*

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Bengaluru-Belagavi Express to reduce travel by 80 min

BENGALURU, 10 AUG

The Vande Bharat train connecting Belagavi and Bengaluru that was flagged off on Sunday is the fastest train on the route and reduces the travel time by 80 minutes, officials said.

It was one of the three trains launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bengaluru.

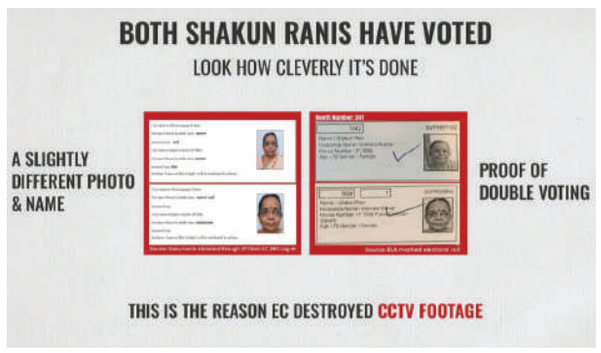
The train would link Belagavi, known for its top medical and engineering colleges, with State capital Bengaluru, often referred to as the Silicon Valley of India.

The commercial run of the train will start from Monday 11 August and it will run on six days except Wednesday, a press note from South Western Railway Zone (SWR) said. Officials said the train has an 8-coach chair car configuration with a seating capacity of 530.

"The KSR Bengaluru - Belagavi Vande Bharat Express, the fastest train on this route, covers 611 km in just 8.5 hours, saving about 1 hour 20 minutes compared to other trains," the press note said.

This is the 11th Vande Bharat train originating from Karnataka to various destinations in the country. *—PTI*

Vote theft: EC sends RaGa notice


BOTH SHAKUN RANIS HAVE VOTED
LOOK HOW CLEVERLY IT'S DONE
A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PHOTO & NAME
PROOF OF DOUBLE VOTING
THIS IS THE REASON EC DESTROYED CCTV FOOTAGE

Screenshot from Rahul Gandhi's presentation, where he alleged that Bengalurean Shakun Rani voted twice *PHOTO: SALAR*

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

- A preliminary inquiry conducted by the CEO's office said that the document shown by the Congress leader in the presentation was not issued by the polling officer

The Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Sunday issued a notice to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking him to share documents based on which he had alleged that a woman voted twice.

The State's top poll officer told Gandhi that the documents will help his office carry out a detailed inquiry.

Gandhi had shown the documents at a press conference in the national capital last week.

"You have also stated that as per the records given by the polling officer, Smt Shakun Rani had voted twice...

On inquiry, Smt Sakun Rani has stated that she has voted only once and not twice, as alleged by you," the notice read.

A preliminary inquiry conducted by the CEO's office also revealed that the tick-marked document shown by the Congress leader in the presentation was not issued by the polling officer, the letter said.

"Therefore, you are kindly requested to provide the relevant documents on the basis of which you have concluded that Smt Shakun Rani or anyone else has voted twice, so that a detailed inquiry can be undertaken by this office," the notice stated.

Meanwhile, over 300 MPs are set to march from the will march from Parliament House Complex to EC Office on 11 August, led by Gandhi. *—PTI*

Bihar DyCM has two voter IDs: Tejashwi

PATNA, 10 AUG

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday alleged that Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha has two voter ID cards and asked what action is being taken against Sinha.

Yadav said, "Vijay Kumar Sinha is a voter from two different assembly constituencies in two different districts. His name is there in Lakhisarai assembly constituency and also in Bankipur assembly constituency in Patna district.

"Surprisingly, it has happened after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) by the Election Commission in Bihar. Who should be held responsible, either Sinha himself or the Election Commission?"

Reacting to Yadav's allegations, Sinha said, "Earlier, names of mine and my family members were listed in Bankipur assembly seat. In April 2024, I had applied to add my name from Lakhisarai. I also filled a form to remove my and my family members' names from Bankipur. I have evidence. For some reason, my name was not removed from Bankipur and it appeared in the draft electoral roll. I called the Booth Level Officer and submitted a written application and took a receipt seeking deletion of my name from Bankpur. I have both documents."

Sinha said that he has voted from only one place. "Last time too, I voted from only one place".

Later in the day, the Banikpur Electoral Registration Officer issued a notice to Sinha and asked him to submit a response by 14 August. *—PTI*

>>More on Page 3

BENGALURU, 10 AUG

The Monsoon Session of the Karnataka legislature is scheduled to begin on Monday, with the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP-JD(S) alliance expected to lock horns on a number of issues. The Opposition will look to corner to Congress over the several key issues, including the recent RCB stampede which claimed 11 lives, the alleged mishandling of floods and rains and the fertiliser distribution to farmers. The Cabinet will likely discuss the new caste census and internal reservations for SCs based on the Justice HN Nagmohan Das Commission report as well as The Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025 and the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

>>>More on Page 2

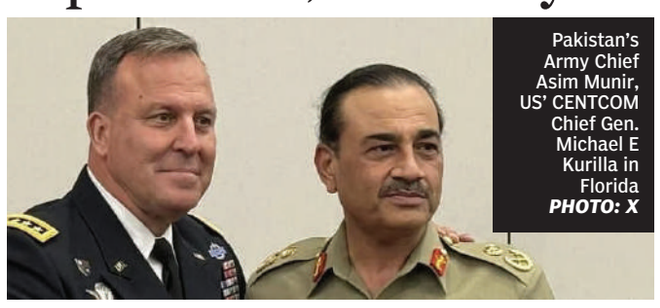
Munir meets political, military leaders in US

ISLAMABAD, 10 AUG

Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir, who is visiting Washington for the second time since the four-day conflict with India, has met top US political and military leaders, the army said on Sunday.

The Chief of Army Staff "is undertaking an official visit to the United States", the army said in a statement released here.

The Army Chief engaged in high-level interactions with senior political and military leadership as well as members of the Pakistani diaspora, according to the statement.



Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir, US' CENTCOM Chief Gen. Michael E Kurilla in Florida *PHOTO: X*

No details were shared about his stay in the US, and it was also not clear when he arrived.

In Tampa, Munir attended the Retirement Ceremony of outgoing US Central Command Commander General Michael E. Kurilla, and the Change of Command Ceremony, marking the assumption of command by Admiral Brad Cooper.

He also met with Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, where matters of mutual professional interest were discussed.

He extended an invitation to General Caine to visit Pakistan, it added. *—PTI*

NEW MILESTONES

ISRO to launch 6,500kg US comms sat soon

CHENNAI, 10 AUG

ISRO will launch a 6,500 kg communication satellite built by the US in the next couple of months, Chairman of the space agency, V Narayanan said.

Following the historic launch of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission onboard a GSLV-F16 rocket on 30 July, ISRO would be launching another satellite for the US, he said on Sunday at an event near Chennai.

"In another couple of months, a country which received a tiny rocket from the United States, is going to launch a 6,500kg communication satellite built by America using our own launcher from Indian soil. What a significant growth it is," he noted.

- India is going to launch a 6,500kg satellite built by US using our own launcher from India, the ISRO chairman said

ISRO aims to triple the number of Indian satellites in 3yrs *PHOTO:X@ISRO*

Narayanan said that there are currently there are 56 satellites orbiting the earth, serving the purpose of ISRO. The number of satellites would be increased "three times" over the next two-three years.

"We are going to have our own Gaganyaan programme (sending humans to space) and ISRO is also going to build its own space station by 2035. The Indian Space programme is really one of the outstanding programmes and by 2040 we will match all developed countries in terms of capability of all space programmes," he said.

Narayanan, who is also the secretary of Department of Space, was presented with the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, by the Governor of Maharashtra CP Radhakrishnan, during the 21st Convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology at Kattankulathur near Chennai.

"Today, we are shoulder to shoulder with advanced countries," Narayanan remarked. *—PTI*

WB govt told hospital not to admit wife: RG Kar victim's dad

KOLKATA, 10 AUG

The father of a victim from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital has accused the West Bengal government of pressuring a private hospital not to admit his wife, who sustained injuries during a police lathicharge at a protest march.

"My wife suffered injuries to her forehead, hands, and back," he claimed, noting that a doctor had initially agreed to admit her on Saturday evening. However, he alleged, "After he left the hospital, there was a sudden change in attitude. They told me my wife could not be admitted due to pressure from the state government."

The father revealed that the hospital discharged his wife the following afternoon after an overnight stay, despite a doctor's recommendation for a minimum two-day admission.

Protesters and security clashed during a rally marking 1 year since the RG Kar rape case *PHOTO: PTI*

The mother alleged she was physically restrained by police during the protest commemorating the tragic anniversary of her daughter's rape-murder. "Police pinned me to the ground. They broke my 'shankha' and I sustained injury on my forehead," she recounted, adding that multiple officers assaulted her. The police have denied any use of force during the scuffle. *—PTI*

Crowd waits to get a glimpse of Prime Minister Narendra Modi near Mekhri Circle and City Railway Station in Bengaluru on Sunday; Modi interacts with the students at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in Bengaluru ***PHOTOS: MOHAMMAD ASAD AND SALAR***

Cong, BJP spar for credit over Yellow Line

DKS says Centre spent only 20%; BJP says PM raised K'taka's rail budget ninefold since 2014

BENGALURU, 10 AUG

- While acknowledging the Centre's technical and financial assistance, he noted that much of it comes in the form of loans and equity, which the State must repay with interest

The Congress and BJP engaged in a war of words, both attempting to claim credit for Namma Metro's Yellow Line.

While, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the State has been spending more than the Centre on City's Metro network, "even though the project is meant to be jointly funded", as he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared the stage at the foundation-laying ceremony for Phase-3, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the railway budget for State has risen from Rs 835 crore before 2014 to Rs 7,500 crore after BJP came to power in the Centre.

Speaking at the event, also attended by Union Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar and Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah said the metro is to be funded equally by Centre and State as per agreement, but "the State is spending more on this project."

While acknowledging the Centre's technical and financial assistance, he noted that much of it comes in the form of loans and equity, which the state must repay with interest. "So far, Rs 3,987 crore has been refunded," he said.

According to CM, 96.10km of Metro lines have been completed, with the State spending Rs 25,387 crore and the Centre Rs 7,468.86 crore.

6L people are expected to travel through Yellow Line

Siddaramaiah urged Modi to extend State the same priority given to Maharashtra and Gujarat.

However, Vaishnaw said, "Such an important state like Karnataka was only getting a meagre Rs 835 crore before 2014. Thanks to Modi, it is now getting Rs 7,500 crore. Also, projects worth Rs 54,000 crore are underway in Karnataka. We are redeveloping 61 stations in the state under Amrit Bharat scheme."

Similarly, Shivakumar said that the State's contribution 80 per cent of the funds to Namma Metro while the Centre contributed only 20 per cent.

Speaking to press at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "The Centre was supposed to bear 50 per cent of land acquisition cost for the Metro but it hasn't." Shivakumar also wrote a letter to Modi appealing for Rs 1.5 lakh crore funds for City.

According to Shivakumar, the construction of urban tunnels, City Business Corridor, integrated solid waste management plants, elevated roads along metro lines, flyovers, additional drinking water projects, new roads over storm water drains, and the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) will require an estimated investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore. The letter also included a detailed note on the projects that require funding.

"Ahmedabad is given 20 per cent of the tax devolution while City gets only 10 per cent. City needs to be treated on par with other large Cities in country like Delhi," he said.

Shivakumar hit back at the BJP claiming that Modi's contribution influenced the completion of the Yellow-Line. "There is no contribution. All this started during SM Krishna and Vajapayee's time. Let them release the data on their contribution, I will release the numbers too."

"BJP claims it has done everything. No BJP MP has even got Rs 10 as funds for Bengaluru. They should be ashamed of themselves," he said. "Some BJP MPs think tweeting and media coverage amounts to achievement."

—Salar News with Agencies

Priyank: BJP 'hijacking' credit for Yellow Line

BENGALURU, 10 AUG

Rural Development Minister Priyank Kharge on Sunday criticised BJP for "hijacking" the credit for Yellow Line Phase 2, stating that State Government shouldered the bulk of the expenses, contributing over Rs 12,000 crore.

Kharge said on X, "The Metro project was launched under the UPA Government led by Manmohan Singh. In the first phase, the UPA Government bore a significant portion of the cost, outpacing the State Government's contribution," he wrote.

According to him, after BJP came to power, their commitment to the project dwindled, with the Central Government's share decreasing drastically in subsequent phases.

"The State government has shouldered the bulk of the expenses, contributing over Rs 12,000 crore, covering land acquisition costs and additional expenses," he added. Central government only provided Rs 8,000 crore for the project, he said.

"This lack of support forced BMRCL to take loans to cover the remaining project costs. While State's contributions to the Centre continue to grow year after year, the returns to the state diminish, and the Yellow Line project is a glaring example of this," he said.

On the other hand, speaking to PTI Videos, Tejasvi Surya, MP of City South, insisted that between Yellow Line and proposed Orange Line 18 lakh commuters will benefit. *—PTI*

> **Our Government deeply values the contribution of Bengaluru to India's growth and we are committed to enhancing this great city's infrastructure.**
>
> -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

> **Centre has fully neglected Karnataka, but to respect Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we requested him to inaugurate the Metro Yellow Line**
>
> -DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

> **PM pushed for public infrastructure in Bengaluru, but Congress tries to take credit for all the things in which they don't have any role. Congress tried to take credit for even the IPL victory**
>
> -Tejasvi Surya, Bengaluru South MP

State Bioenergy Development Board Chairman SE Sudheendra met CM Siddaramaiah on World Biofuel Day to discuss State's bioenergy policy, investment potential of Rs 1 lakh crore, job creation, farmer benefits and CM's positive response for policy announcement.

5 Indian vultures, stray dog found dead in Kabini

MYSURU, 10 AUG

Five Indian Eagles and a street dog were found dead on Saturday in the backwaters of Kabini in Gundre Wildlife division of Bandipur tiger reserve in HD Kote taluk, forest officials said. The officials spotted the carcasses during their routine patrolling on Saturday evening. Bandipur wildlife division veterinarian Amruthesh, who conducted the autopsy of the dog and the eagles, have sent samples to an advanced regional laboratory. The forest department suspects that the birds died after consuming the meat of the dead dog, which was suspected to be poisoned by miscreants. *—Salar News*

7 booked for dowry harassment in Bidar

BIDAR, 10 AUG

Police filed a case against seven based on a complaint by a woman alleging that her husband's family has been harassing her to bring dowry. Pooja, a resident of Shahaganj locality in Bidar city, said in her complaint that she was married to Akash in December 2022. At the time of marriage, her husband's family demanded five tolas of gold and Rs 5 lakh in cash as dowry. Her father agreed to the demand and provided it. However, she alleged that her husband's family was again demanding another Rs 2 lakh and two more tolas of gold as dowry. *—Salar News*

Cong, Oppn set for showdown as Monsoon Session begins today

BENGALURU, 10 AUG

The Monsoon Session of State legislature is scheduled to begin on Monday, with the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP-JD(S) alliance expected to lock horns on a number of issues.

The Opposition is expected to corner the government on several key issues, including its "misrule" and lack of funding for development.

The BJP is likely to raise the government's handling of the RCB victory celebrations, which resulted in the death of 11 people during the M Chinnaswammy stampede, and alleged mismanagement of fertiliser distribution to farmers.

Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly R Ashoka earlier stated that his party will focus on the Congress dispensation's alleged mishandling of flood and rain damage, lack of ministerial visits to affected areas and law and order issues during the legislature session.

Additionally, discussions are expected on Dharmasthala "mass burials" probe, with the Opposition likely to question the government's response to the alleged misinformation.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has raked up the issue of vote theft and criticised the Election Commission of India. The BJP and Congress are expected to lock horns over the issue.

The new caste census has long been a major political issue. The State government's decision to conduct a new caste census and plans to implement internal reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) based on the Justice HN Nagmohan Das Commission report.

However, the Opposition has questioned the need for a new State-level survey when the Centre has decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census exercise. It had also voiced concerns about alleged discrepancies in the survey that was held to provide internal reservation among SCs. The Session comes in the backdrop of rumblings in both the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP over the leadership issue.

While there is a speculation about the Chief Minister seat in the Congress, the saffron party has been plagued by factionalism, especially given the continuation of BY Vijayendra as party State unit President

Opposition parties have seized on the power tussle between the CM Siddaramaiah and thw Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, claiming it has weakened the administration. *—PTI*

UT Khader inspects the preparation of the Assembly Hall at Vidhana Soudha on the eve of the assembly session in Bengaluru ***PHOTO: SALAR***

Bills to look out for...

The Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025, the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Amendment) Bill, 2025 are likely to be tabled during the upcoming session. The Cabinet is also expected deliberate on the extent of internal reservation among SC/ST castes. Earlier, there were reports that Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Venues of Mass Gathering) Bill, 2025; Karnataka Rohith Vemula Bill, 2025; Karnataka Misinformation Regulation Bill, 2025; Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Prevention Bill, 2025, may be tabled during the session. However, most of them are yet to be cleared by the Cabinet.

6 HELD IN DHARMASTHALA ATTACK CASE

DHARMASTHALA, 10 AUG

Six individuals have been arrested in connection with an attack on YouTubers on 6 August near Pangala Cross, Dharmasthala of the State. A case has been filed against the accused, identified as Padmaprasad, 32, Suhas, 22, Khalandar Puttumonu, 42, Chetan, 21, Shashidhar, 30, and Guruprasad, 19, for obstructing police officers on duty under Crime No. 47/2025. They were granted interim bail on 9 August, with a court appearance scheduled for 11 August.

Meanwhile, two new informants approached the Special Investigation Team investigating claims of mass burials of alleged victims of murder and sexual assault at Dharmasthala, stating they witnessed a body being buried. Ongoing excavations at various locations have yielded skeletal remains at Points 6 and 10 but no discoveries.

BJP MLA SR Vishwanath condemned the situation, stating, "Some people are trying to gain attention by spreading lies... This has hurt Hindus across the country." Former deputy CM KS Eshwarappa echoed his sentiments, asserting that there is a deliberate attempt to insult Hindu community, demanding a thorough investigation into the matter. "The State must find out who is behind this," he added. *—Agencies*

FOOD POISONING: 25 STUDENTS HOSPITALISED

CHIKKAMAGALURU, 10 AUG

A total of 25 students of BR Ambedkar residential school at Aldur in Chikkamagaluru district were hospitalised on Saturday – four of them in serious condition – after consuming contaminated food at the hostel, sources said.

The students suffered from vomiting, stomach aches and dehydration after eating the meals. After providing primary treatment in the local health centre, the students were shifted to Malle Gowda district hospital in Chikkamagaluru. The students told the officials of the food and civil supplies, education and social welfare departments who visited the hospital that the food served was contaminated and that there were dead insects found in it.

"We are being served such food every day," the students told. The sample of the food was sent for testing at a government laboratory. Officials of social welfare department have questioned hostel warden, food grain store in-charge and cooks. *—Salar News*

PARCEL FRAUD

Mangaluru woman duped of Rs 3.09 cr in 'digital arrest' scam

MANGALURU, 10 AUG

A retired woman in Mangaluru lost Rs 3.09 crore to cybercriminals in a 'digital arrest' scam, police said on Sunday.

The victim, identified as Leni Prabhu, filed a complaint with the Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police station after receiving a missed call on 15 January from an unknown number. When she returned the call, a woman posing as a General Post Office official told her that a parcel sent in her name to China had been intercepted, containing 150 grams of MDMA.

The caller "threatened that the offence carried a prison sentence of over 75 years."

Claiming she could help obtain a no-objection certificate, the fraudster coerced Prabhu into surrendering 93 percent of her pension.

Under duress, Prabhu first transferred Rs 55 lakh via RTGS. Between January 17 and July 4, she made multiple transactions totaling Rs 3.09 crore to accounts allegedly provided by the suspects.

The scam was uncovered when the victim stopped receiving responses from the fraudsters.

In a 'digital arrest' scam, fraudsters allegedly impersonate law enforcement officials to deceive and intimidate victims by falsely accusing them of illegal activities. They then pressure victims into paying money to avoid arrest.

The perpetrators often pose as CBI agents, income tax officers, or customs officials and contact victims through phone calls. *—PTI*

MES rally: Tight security along M'rashtra border

BELAGAVI, 10 AUG

To prevent people from neighbouring Maharashtra from attending an 11 August rally organised by pro-Maharashtrian group Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES), police have deployed additional forces at all border checkposts from Sunday evening.

The government did not grant MES permission for holding a rally, Belagavi Police Commissioner Bushan Borase said. However, the MES announced that they would conduct a rally anyway, prompting the reaction from the State government.

Apart from regular staff, additional police personnel would be deployed at Koganolli RTO checkpoint in Nippani taluk and at Kudremani in Belagavi taluk from Sunday evening.

Superintendent of Police Bhimashankar Guled said all vehicles entering the district, along with passengers at railway stations and the airport, would be checked.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Narayan Baramani said permission was refused as it may disturb public order. MES was advised to submit its demands to the Deputy Commissioner instead.

The rally is to oppose compulsory Kannada along the border areas. The MES plans a march from Dharamaveer Sambhaji Circle to the DC's office after a public meeting at Maratha Mandir. MES has demanded State follow National Linguistic Minorities Commission norms, which mandate official documents in minority languages if they exceed 14 per cent of the population. *—Salar News*

FEAST PREP

A worker cleans the top of St. Mary's Basilica Church in the wake of St. Mary's Feast at Shivajinagar in Bengaluru ***PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD***

Pak's ISI promotes drug abuse among J&K youths: Cops

SRINAGAR, 10 AUG

Srinagar Police have launched a major crackdown on drug trafficking, arresting 97 people and filing 73 cases in the past three months. Officials say Pakistan's ISI, failing to recruit local youth for terrorism, is promoting drug abuse to destabilise Kashmir. With heroin harder to obtain due to strict enforcement, addicts are turning to illicitly sourced medical opioids, often bought from outside Jammu and Kashmir at inflated prices. From April to July, police seized heroin, brown sugar, cannabis, charas and psychotropic drugs, froze 29 bank accounts, and attached assets linked to smugglers.Mohammad Muzaffar Khan warned of rising opioid misuse, while recovering addicts urged youth to avoid drugs. The operation is vital. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X/SURESHGOPI

Suresh Gopi out of reach, 'missing' complaint filed

THRISSUR , 10 AUG

A Kerala Students' Union (KSU) leader has lodged a "missing" complaint against Union Minister and Thrissur MP Suresh Gopi, alleging he has been inaccessible to his constituency for three months. KSU leader Gokul Guruvayoor claimed Gopi has not commented on the recent arrest of two Catholic nuns from Kerala in BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh, despite courting the Christian vote during the last election. He also alleged the minister ignored invitations to inaugurate a key central government project in Thrissur and could not be reached by even senior state officials. The complaint was emailed to East Police on Sunday, with a hard copy to be submitted on Monday. KSU plans a poster campaign demanding the "missing" minister be traced. *—PTI*

Anand Sharma quits as Cong's key dept chairman

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Veteran Congress leader Anand Sharma has resigned as chairman of the party's Department of Foreign Affairs, urging its reconstitution to induct younger leaders for continuity. A former Union minister, Sharma has led the department for about a decade and has been the Congress's key voice on international affairs for nearly 40 years. In his resignation to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, he expressed gratitude for the role and highlighted his involvement in the Indo-US nuclear deal, India-Africa partnership, WTO agreements, and post-2008 Mumbai attacks diplomacy. He said the department had built ties with like-minded parties world leaders. *—PTI*

U'khand CM inaugurates model Sanskrit villages

DEHRADUN, 10 AUG

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated 13 model Sanskrit villages across Uttarakhand, one in each district, on Sunday. At a ceremony in Bhogpur, Dhami emphasised the government's goal to establish primary Sanskrit schools and build dedicated Sanskrit structures in these villages. He referred to Sanskrit as 'devvani' (language of God) and stated, "Uttarakhand is the first state to take an initiative like this." The model villages, known as Adarsh Sanskrit Gram, aim to make Sanskrit a common mode of communication. The government is also offering special scholarships to promote Sanskrit education and recognising outstanding students through the Sanskrit Chhatra Pratibha Samman Yojana. Villages include Bhogpur, Mukhem, and Kotgaon as part of this initiative. *—PTI*

No name deleted without notice: EC to SC

Bihar's draft lists 7.24 cr voters, excludes over 65 lakh

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Exclusion of a name from draft roll does not amount to deletion of a person from electoral roll, says EC ***PHOTO: PTI***

The Election Commission has told the Supreme Court that there would be no deletion of any voter's name from the draft electoral roll in Bihar without issuance of prior notice, affording opportunity of being heard and a reasoned order.

The poll panel also said that statutory framework does not require it to prepare or share any separate list of names of people not included in the draft electoral rolls, or publish the reasons for non-inclusion of anyone for any reason.

The EC filed an additional affidavit in the apex court on 9 August, days after it published Bihar's draft electoral rolls, enlisting 7.24 crore voters but removing over 65 lakh names, claiming that most of the persons concerned had died or migrated.

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The EC also filed its reply to an application filed by the petitioner seeking direction to the poll panel to publish a full and final assembly constituency and part/booth wise list of names and details of about 65 lakh electors whose enumeration forms were not submitted along with reasons for non-submission. These safeguards are reinforced by a robust two-tier appeal mechanism, ensuring that every elector has adequate recourse against any adverse action. Strict directions were issued to prevent deletion without notice and a speaking order by the competent authority, with provision for appeals.

Exclusion of a name from draft roll does not amount to deletion of an individual from electoral rolls. Political parties were supplied with an updated list of names of electors not included in draft roll to ensure that they can reach out to such individuals for inclusion of their names.SC had asked the EC to clarify the non-inclusion of names in Bihar's draft roll. *—PTI*

WEB PORTAL LAUNCHED

Cong urges people to register online against 'vote chori'

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Upping the ante over Rahul Gandhi's poll rigging claims, the Congress has launched a web portal where people can register to demand accountability from the Election Commission (EC) against what it called "vote chori" and express support for the Leader of Opposition's demand for digital voter rolls.

Gandhi claimed that "vote theft" is an attack on the basic democratic principle of 'one person, one vote' and a clean voters' list is essential for free and fair elections.

"Our demand from the Election Commission is clear -- show transparency and make the digital voter list public, so that the public and political parties can audit it themselves," he said.

Gandhi urged people to support this demand by registering on votechori.in/ecdemand.

Anyone can click on the portal link and download "vote chori proof, demand EC accountability and report vote chori".

It also carries Gandhi's video which reiterated his explosive claims of a "huge criminal fraud" in the polls through collusion between the BJP and the EC

The portal also carries a message of the vote being the foundation of democracy.

Once a person registers on the portal, a certificate stating that he stands against 'vote chori,'is issued in his name. He can also call on a number and fill the link in the SMS to register.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that the Congress and Gandhi should approach the court or EC if they can prove their allegations.

Gandhi had alleged that the Maharashtra assembly poll results confirmed that the election was 'stolen'.Deputy Leader of Congress Gaurav Gogoi urged the EC to "clean up" fraudulent entries*—PTI*

INDIA candidate to contest VP poll

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

PHOTO: PTI

The opposition INDIA bloc is set to nominate a joint candidate for the upcoming vice presidential elections, with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge actively engaging with other parties to build consensus on a name, sources indicated on Sunday. There is a strong sentiment within the bloc that opposition parties should participate in the contest to send a robust political message, regardless of the outcome.

While structured discussions to select a candidate have yet to occur, informal talks among INDIA bloc partners are underway, as Kharge reaches out to various opposition factions. Notably, some members suggest that the bloc should wait to decide on its candidate until the BJP announces theirs.

This development follows a show of solidarity among INDIA bloc leaders, who convened for a dinner hosted by Rahul Gandhi. They united in their resolve to challenge the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, condemning what they term the "vote chori model" associated with the BJP and the Election Commission. "There wasn't much discussion on the vice presidential election... There are other occasions for it," remarked Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal.

Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned as vice president on 4 August, citing medical reasons, though speculation abounds regarding other motivations behind his departure. The Election Commission has set 9 September as the date for the vice presidential poll. *—PTI*

VICTORY GUARANTEED

Two men met Uddhav and promised win in LS polls: Raut

MUMBAI, 10 AUG

PHOTO: ANI

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut has echoed Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar's recent assertions, alleging that two individuals approached Uddhav Thackeray before the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections in 2024. According to Raut, these individuals promised to secure victory in 60-65 challenging seats "through EVMs" (Electronic Voting Machines). He noted that the same individuals had also met Thackeray ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, offering similar assurances.

Raut emphasised Thackeray's commitment to the integrity of the electoral process, highlighting the success of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which won 30 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra. While discussing these meetings, Raut stated, "We don't feel the need to do it," referring to the proposed arrangements.

- Raut emphasised Thackeray's commitment to the integrity of the electoral process, highlighting the success of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which won 30 Lok Sabha seats.

Pawar's comments have stirred significant political discourse, particularly in light of Rahul Gandhi's recent accusations of "vote theft" involving the BJP and the Election Commission. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has dismissed Pawar's claims as mere sensationalism, likening them to a dramatic script. The conversation has intensified scrutiny surrounding electoral integrity in the lead-up to the 2024 elections. *—PTI*

J&K anti-terror operation enters 10th day

SRINAGAR, 10 AUG

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district entered its tenth day on Sunday, as security forces closed in on militants hiding in the Akhal forest.

Officials said the terrorists appeared highly trained in jungle warfare, using dense foliage to avoid detection by drones.

The encounter, which began on 1 August, has left two Army soldiers dead and nine injured. Two militants have also been killed, though their identities and affiliations remain unknown.

Senior police and Army officers, are monitoring the operation. Drones, helicopters and para commandos are assisting in locating and neutralising the remaining militants.*—PTI*

BJP-TMC workers scuffle during Sukanta's visit

KOLKATA, 10 AUG

A scuffle broke out between TMC and BJP workers when Union Minister of State for Education, Sukanta Majumdar visited the Dumdum railway station on the northern suburbs of Kolkata on Saturday.

The former state BJP president was leaving the station complex after attending an official programme when over a hundred TMC members started shouting 'go back'.

BJP supporters countered with 'Jai Shri Ram' and demanded Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's resignation. This soon escalated into a scuffle.

Police and RPF personnel brought the situation under control.

Majumdar said that TMC activists who are slowly losing their ground, tried to intimidate BJP supporters.

TMC claimed it was protesting the anti-Bengali attitude of the BJP and Majumdar's silence on the issue. *—PTI*

Boss doesn't like our growth: Rajnath

RAISEN, 10 AUG

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav during the ceremony for the BRAHMA Project (BEML Rail Hub for Manufacturing) in Raisen ***PHOTO: PTI***

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday described India's economy as the world's most "dashing and dynamic" and said some people who have the attitude of "we are everyone's boss" are not liking it.

Singh's comments come amid high tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on goods imported from India.

The speed with which India is moving ahead, no power in the world can stop it from becoming a big power globally, Singh said in his address after performing bhoomi pujan of a rail coach manufacturing unit of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district.

"Today, if any country has a dashing and dynamic economy, it is India's economy," he asserted.

The defence minister, without naming anyone, said some people are not liking the rapid development of India and are unable to digest it.

"They think that we are everyone's boss and how is India moving forward so fast? Many people are trying to do something....," he said.

- The defence minister, without naming anyone, said some people are not liking the rapid development of India and are unable to digest it.They think that they are everyone's boss.

India is among the top four economies in the world.

Singh said that earlier, things related to defence production were made in the world, by foreigners, and India used to buy from them. India exported defence products worth Rs 24,000 crore to countries of the world.

Singh said that India gave a befitting reply to Pakistan, referring to the Indian military's Operation Sindoor. India would not spare anyone who would instigate it. *—PTI*

'TIMES ARE CHANGING'

J&K separatists join nat'l mainstream

SRINAGAR, 10 AUG

15 ex-separatist leaders declared their commitment to India ***PHOTO: ANI***

Several former separatist leaders in Jammu and Kashmir are now publicly renouncing their past affiliations and pledging allegiance to India, a trend that marks a significant reversal in their stand from the early 1990s, when they often disassociated from the government under duress from terrorists.

This shift began this year, with over 15 people submitting sworn affidavits and placing public advertisements in newspapers to declare their commitment to India and its Constitution.

"We do get many applications from erstwhile separatists, and everyone is evaluated based on their involvement in anti-national activities," a senior official said.

Among the key leaders who have pledged to the Constitution include DPM's Mohammad Shafi Reshi, a former close aide of late Syed Ali Geelani and Shahid Saleem, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement.

Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement patron Zaffar Akbar Bhat's wife, Neelofer publicly disassociated her family with separatist conglomerate the All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

Fareeda Behenji, chairperson of the Jammu Kashmir Mass Movement, formally separated herself and her organisation from separatist groups.

Former Director General of Jammu and Kashmir police, Kuldeep Khoda, believes these developments are the result of a concerted effort to corner separatists.

"Better sense has prevailed upon them, and they don't want to be part of the violence and false propaganda being peddled from across the border," he added.

The government, in line with its policy of "zero tolerance" towards terrorism and secessionist activities, proscribed several organisations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act that included the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam group), Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir, Muslim Conference. Awami Action Committee and Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen were prohibited. *—PTI*

India is certainly crucial in IMEC project: Italy

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

PHOTO: PTI

India plays a "certainly crucial" role in the transnational India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative, emphasised Italy's special envoy for IMEC, Francesco Talo'. This initiative is aimed at enhancing connectivity through roads, railroads, and shipping networks linking Saudi Arabia, India, the US, and Europe.

"India is a huge market and a huge producer... It is very important in terms of trade, energy, and data connectivity," Talo' noted in an interview. He highlighted the significance of the 'Blue Raman' cable project connecting Mumbai to Genoa, Italy, stating "data is practically the fuel of the 21st century."

As the project aims for substantial growth in trade between India and the EU, Talo' remarked, "the exchange of goods is forecasted to double in 10 years." He also discussed the potential for India to produce and export green hydrogen, aligning common energy interests with Gulf countries. Talo' plans to host an IMEC meeting in Trieste, to promote it as a significant hub for the initiative. *—PTI*

- "India is a huge market and a huge producer... It is very important in terms of trade, energy, and data connectivity," Talo' said. He also highlighted the significance of the Blue Raman cable project.

NRI booked for wife's suicide in Sharjah, arrested

T'PURAM, 10 AUG

A Kerala man accused of abetting his wife's suicide in Sharjah has been detained at Thiruvananthapuram airport. Satheesh, 40, from Sasthamcotta in Kollam, was accused of driving his wife, Athulya, 29, to take her life. She was found hanging in their apartment. Immigration officials intercepted him following a lookout notice and handed him to local police, who will transfer him to the Crime Branch. His lawyer said he returned after securing anticipatory bail from the Kollam Sessions Court, which cited her death certificate stating "suicide by hanging." Athulya's parents allege he harassed her over dowry and assaulted her two days before her death. He faces BNS and Dowry Prohibition Act charges. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Six militants arrested in Manipur

IMPHAL, 10 AUG

Security forces in Manipur have arrested six militants linked to five banned groups during separate operations over the past two days, police said on Sunday. The arrests took place in Bishnupur, Imphal West and Thoubal districts. On Friday, a female cadre of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (Taibangnganba) was detained in Chingmeirong, Imphal West, while a KCP (MFL) member was held at Haobam Marak. On Saturday, two members of the outlawed KCP (Apunba) were caught in Phayeng, Imphal West. A Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup militant was arrested from Samaram Mamang in Thoubal, and a PREPAK (PRO) cadre from Thangtek, Imphal West. Police said investigations into the suspects' activities are continuing. *—PTI*

Committee to probe death of WB PhD student

KOLKATA, 10 AUG

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata has set up a fact-finding committee to investigate the death of PhD student Anamtira Roy, 24. The life sciences researcher from the Haringhata campus died at AIIMS Kalyani on Friday, hours after falling ill. A preliminary report suggests a possible drug overdose. Roy's family filed an FIR, alleging he was bullied and harassed by his guide and a batchmate, forcing him to take his life. His social media posts spoke of mental harassment, ignored complaints, and mistreatment linked to partial autism. Students staged a rally. IISER pledged full cooperation with police and swift action after the committee's findings. *—PTI*

Women patients to get priority in organ transplant

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

The Union Health Ministry has advised states to give priority to women patients on organ transplant waiting lists to address gender disparity. Issued by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) on the 15th Indian Organ Donation Day, the advisory also recommends priority for near relatives of deceased donors awaiting transplants. States were urged to honour donors with dignified funerals, expand organ retrieval facilities in trauma centres and medical colleges, and train emergency responders to identify potential donors. Hospitals must provide data for NOTTO's national registry, with non-compliance inviting action. Health Minister JP Nadda stressed the urgent need to bridge the gap between organ demand and supply. *—PTI*

Airspace ban on Indian flights costs Pak ₹4.1B

Pakistan closed its airspace following Operation Sindoor

ISLAMABAD, 10 AUG

Pakistan's airport body suffered a loss of Rs 4.1 billion in over two months due to the closure of airspace for Indian airlines, according to official data.

Pakistan and India closed their respective airspaces for each other's airlines following the deadly Pahalgam terrorist attack in Kashmir on 22 April, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

The airspace ban was extended after ties between the two countries deteriorated due to the four-day conflict as India launched Operation Sindoor on 7 May and destroyed terror infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan.

The Ministry of Defence informed the National Assembly on Friday that the closure of airspace to Indian-registered aircraft has cost the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) a loss of Rs 4.1 billion, reported the Dawn newspaper. The average daily overflight revenue earned by PPA in 2019 was $508,000, compared to just $760,000 in 2025 at present.

The ministry said the shortfall, from 24 April to 30 June, was in overflying revenue.

The Ministry of Defence said the shortfall, from 24 April to 30 June, was in overflying revenue PHOTO: PTI

Pakistan announced the closure of the country's airspace to Indian airlines after the Indian government placed the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance. As such, 100 to 150 Indian planes stopped operating, leading to a decline in transit traffic by 20 per cent.

It added that the amounts reflected "revenue shortfalls, not overall financial losses" and noted that overflight and aeronautical charges remained unchanged.

The ministry stated that though closure of the country's airspace to India has resulted in financial losses, sovereignty and national defence took precedence over economic considerations.

Pakistan's airspace is open to all except Indian airlines and aircraft

Similarly, Pakistani carriers remain banned from Indian airspace. *—PTI*

Bailey bridge to restore connectivity in U'khand

A Bailey bridge being constructed at Limchigad near Gangnani on a war footing to improve road connectivity to the affected areas in Uttarkashi on Saturday PHOTO: PTI

UTTARKASHI, 10 AUG

Construction of a vital Bailey bridge along the Gangotri National Highway, aimed at restoring connectivity to the disaster-hit areas of Uttarkashi and transport food supplies to affected people, was in its final stages on Sunday, with officials expecting it to be ready by afternoon.

A Bailey bridge is a kind of modular bridge that can be quickly assembled with prebuilt parts.

Authorities have stepped up efforts to supply relief materials to those stranded by the devastating mudslide in Kheer Ganga that tore through homes and hotels, leaving trail of destruction in its wake.

Four people died and 49 people are missing. The search for the missing also continued.

Heavy rains in T'gana till 14 Aug

HYDERABAD, 10 AUG

Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms were forecast at isolated places in several districts of Telangana till 14 August. Hyderabad witnessed heavy downpour, causing waterlogging at different places in the city on 9 August. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation said in a post X, "Intense storms likely this afternoon & evening — Stay Alert!" *—PTI*

Authorities were directed to supply 2,000 litres of diesel per day to Dharali and ensure that LPG cylinders are given to the affected.

Horses and mules are also being used to transport essential supplies until roads are repaired and become operational.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off vehicles carrying disaster relief material from his camp office in Dehradun.

Officials said the Bailey bridge, being built over Limchagad between Gangnani and Dharali, will help restore connectivity to the affected areas, they said.

Blockages along the highway at Songad, Dabrani, Harsil and Dharali were being cleared. Medical teams were stationed in the disaster-affected area to continuously provide their services. *—PTI*

Ex-beau held for Odisha student's suicide

BHUBANESWAR/ KENDRAPARA, 10 AUG

Police have charged the ex-boyfriend of a 19-year-old college student following the discovery of her charred body at her home in Kendrapara district.

Pramod Behera has been booked under multiple sections, including 296 (obscene act), 75 (sexual harassment), 78 (stalking), and 108 (abetment of suicide) of the BNS, as well as Sections 66-E and 67-A of the IT Act.

This action follows a written complaint from the victim's father, who alleges Behera blackmailed his daughter, threatening to make intimate photos public.

He claimed that Behera forced her to commit suicide by setting herself ablaze. While the victim previously approached police six months ago, her complaint was allegedly ignored by an ASI now transferred for a transparent investigation.

Behera's family denies the allegations, suggesting the father may be involved in a case of honour killing. *—PTI*

AI to upgrade dreamliner avionics to curtail snags

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Air India has announced plans to upgrade the avionics and essential components of its fleet of 26 legacy B787-8 Dreamliner aircraft. This move aims to mitigate operational disruptions and enhance overall reliability following recent issues encountered with the model.

In the wake of a tragic crash involving a 787-8 plane that killed 260 people during takeoff from Ahmedabad on June 12, the airline has undertaken comprehensive checks, including assessments of fuel switches. Under a $400 million retrofit programme initiated in December 2022, the first of the legacy Dreamliners was sent to a Boeing facility in Victorville, California, in July 2025 for these upgrades.

A second aircraft is scheduled for the same facility in October, with both planes expected to return to service by December 2025. The Reliability Enhancement Programme will see the upgrades brought in line with the latest industry standards.

Additionally, seven of the 26 B787-8s will undergo heavy scheduled maintenance at the same facility, ensuring their long-term operational integrity. The completion date for the entire retrofit process is anticipated by mid-2027, which will modify the aircraft into a 3-class configuration. *—PTI*

WOMAN FEARS FOR LIFE

Man holds daughter's funeral for eloping

JAIPUR, 10 AUG

A man in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district printed a condolence notice for his daughter, who is alive, and held a funeral feast after she eloped against the family's wishes, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Sareri village of Asind subdivision, where Bhairulal Joshi had arranged the marriage of his daughter, Pooja, with Sanjay Tiwari, a resident of the same village. According to relatives, the wedding was solemnised in April this year.

Head Constable Shravan Kumar said Joshi lodged a missing person's report on 30 July, stating that his daughter had left home on 29 July but did not return.

"We made enquiries in nearby areas and among relatives, but there was no trace. Her mobile phone was ringing, but there was no response," Kumar said.

Police later traced her and found that she had married Suraj Tiwari, a relative of her husband, of her own will.

"We informed the family and asked them to be present when the woman would appear before the SP's office," the officer added.

On 4 August, Pooja appeared before the SP and confirmed that she had married Suraj willingly. She also expressed fear for her safety from her own family, police said. *—PTI*

Drone rumours trigger patrols in UP village

LUCKNOW, 10 AUG

In Puranpur, Pilibhit district, 45-year-old Bhurey Singh patrols nightly with a torch and stick, guarding against alleged drone-assisted thefts.

Since mid-July, fear of "drone thieves" has swept over 300 villages in western Uttar Pradesh, sparked by rumours from Amroha about gangs using drones to scout homes.

Despite no confirmed thefts involving drones, panic has triggered mob assaults, arrests, and viral misinformation.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered action under the Gangster Act and possibly the NSA against unauthorised drone use or rumour-mongering. Police are creating a drone register, detaining violators, and holding awareness drives. Yet in many villages, families remain on nightly vigil, convinced thieves could strike from the skies at any moment. *—PTI*

Justice must reach people's doorsteps: CJI

ITANAGAR, 10 AUG

Chief Justice of India BR Gavai inaugurated the new Gauhati High Court Permanent Bench building in Itanagar, emphasising the judiciary, legislature, and executive's roles in serving the public and delivering swift, cost-effective justice.

"Justice should reach people's doorsteps," he asserted, stating, "Neither the courts… exist for the royals, judges, or members of the executive. We all exist to give justice to the people."

Gavai praised Arunachal Pradesh's cultural diversity, noting its 26 major tribes and over 100 sub-tribes, and stressed the need to preserve traditions. He recalled a visit to Manipur, where a woman welcomed him, reaffirming the sentiment that "for all of us, India is one."

Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ashutosh Kumar echoed this sentiment, declaring the new building reaffirms the Constitutional promise of justice without geographical barriers. The Rs 135.35 crore complex features five courtrooms and modern facilities. *—PTI*

Man poses as M'rashtra Dy CM's PA, siphons off ₹55L

MUMBAI, 9 AUG

Police in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district have charged a couple, Hitesh Ramesh Sanghvi and his wife Arpita, with defrauding 18 individuals of over Rs 55 lakh. The couple is accused of falsely claiming Hitesh was the personal assistant to Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and promising job placements, tenders, and MHADA housing, a police official confirmed.

One victim, dairy businessman Harshal Bari, was reportedly conned after being told of Sanghvi's association with the Deputy CM, leading him to hand over Rs 10 lakh for a MHADA flat and Rs 7 lakh for a railway job for his wife.

The couple allegedly provided fake documents to support their claims. Bari eventually realised the ploy and lodged a complaint on Thursday. *—PTI*

M'rashtra farmers oppose expressway

MUMBAI, 10 AUG

Farmers from 12 districts in Maharashtra will hoist the national flag in their fields on Independence Day as part of a unique protest against the proposed Shaktipeeth Expressway, which they claim will destroy fertile agricultural land.

The campaign for the August 15 protest will carry the slogan "The tricolour flutters in our field, Shaktipeeth has no place in our farmland," sending a strong message to the state government, Congress MLC Satej Patil said.

The decision was taken at an online meeting of the Shaktipeeth Expressway Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti on Saturday, attended by farmers and public representatives from the affected districts, he said.

The Maharashtra cabinet in June this year approved the allocation of Rs 20,787 crore for the ambitious `Maharashtra Shaktipeeth Expressway' which will pass through 12 districts, linking eastern Maharashtra with southern Konkan.

The 802-km expressway is expected to cut the travel time between Nagpur and Goa from current 18 hours to eight hours, as per officials. *—PTI*

Minor raped, killed in Assam tea estate

DIBRUGARH, 10 JUNE

A minor girl was allegedly raped and killed at a tea garden in Assam's Dibrugarh district. The incident happened at a small tea garden in Kachari Pathar on 9 August when the girl was out to collect firewood.

"The accused was fishing nearby when he saw the girl alone. He allegedly raped and killed her by smothering," an officer said.

The accused then covered the body with hay and grass in a drain. "When the girl did not return home, her parents informed the police.

Locals caught the accused when he tried to flee from the scene and handed him over to the police. *—PTI*

AMID RISING VIOLENCE

Zero-hour to help boxes: Kerala schools' safety plan

T'PURAM, 10 AUG

Kerala General Education Minister V Sivankutty pledged to prioritise the safety and mental well-being of schoolchildren, as reports of violence and abuse continue to shake the state.

Alongside academic initiatives, he warned of stringent action against offenders, stressing that protecting children—both at home and beyond—was the government's foremost duty.

Sivankutty said such child-friendly initiatives would be implemented in all schools in the southern state, cutting across the government, aided, unaided or private divide.

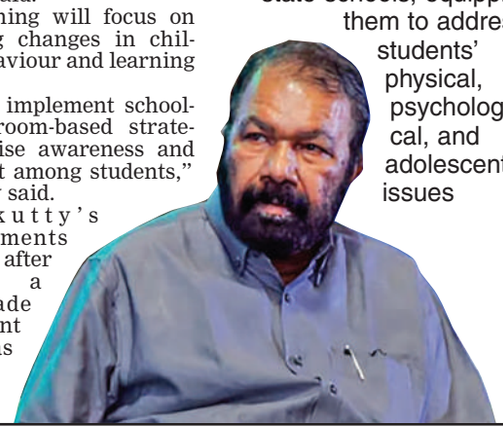
The department will soon outline a special orientation programme for teachers in state schools, equipping them to address students' physical, psychological, and adolescent issues, provide mental support, and prevent substance abuse, he said.

The training will focus on identifying changes in children's behaviour and learning patterns.

"We will implement school- and classroom-based strategies to raise awareness and foster trust among students," Sivankutty said.

Sivankutty's announcements came a day after meeting a fourth-grade girl student who was allegedly assaulted by her father and stepmother in Alappuzha.

- The education department will soon outline a special orientation programme for teachers in state schools, equipping them to address students' physical, psychological, and adolescent issues



The torture suffered by the girl came to light after her teachers noticed slap marks on her body and chanced upon a letter written by her detailing her sufferings. The accused father and stepmother were arrested.

Children would be encouraged to express their concerns and worries through diary writing and special "zero-hour sessions", in which teachers and students would have brief interactions in non-class times, at schools.

As part of the "Suraksha Mitram" project, "help boxes" will be placed in all schools in which children can drop confidential letters detailing their issues. *—PTI*

GANESH CHATURTHI PREPARATIONS

Devotees leave for a pandal with Lord Ganesha's idol ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi in Mumbai. Ganesh Chaturthi marks the birth of Lord Ganesha, the Hindu god of wisdom, prosperity, and new beginnings. The festival honours Lord Ganesha. The 10-day festival will be celebrated on 27 August
PHOTO: ANI

India can do without Russian oil, but with trade-offs

Russian crude supports high distillate yields - the share of crude converted into fuels like petrol, diesel, and jet fuel through distillation
PHOTO: PTI

Indian refiners, the world's biggest user of Russian oil, can operate without supplies from Moscow from a technical standpoint, but the shift would involve major economic and strategic trade-offs, analysts said.

Russian crude supports high distillate yields - the share of crude converted into fuels like petrol, diesel, and jet fuel through distillation. Replacing Russian crude, which accounts for up to 38 per cent of India's refinery intake, with alternatives will shift yields, resulting in lower middle distillates (diesel and jet fuel) and higher residue outputs, according to global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler.

US President Donald Trump last week announced an additional 25 per cent tariff on US imports from India -- raising the overall duty to 50 per cent -- as a penalty for the country's continued imports of Russian oil.

Since the steep tariffs are likely to hit the USD 27 billion of non-exempt exports that India does to the US, there has been chatter around stopping or curtailing oil imports from Russia.

"Indian refiners can operate without Russian crude from a technical standpoint, but the shift would involve major economic and strategic trade-offs," Kpler said in a report, 'US Tariffs on Indian Imports: Implications for Energy Markets & Trade Flows'.

India turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Consequently, from a mere 1.7 per cent share in total oil imports in 2019-20 (FY20), Russia's share increased to 35.1 per cent in FY25, and it is now the biggest oil supplier to India.

In terms of volume, India imported 88 million tonnes from Russia in FY25, out of the total shipment of 245 million tonnes.

In July, India received 1.6 million barrels per day of crude from Russia, ahead of China's nearly 1 million bpd and Turkey's around 5,00,000 bpd.

Kpler said deep discounts and strong compatibility with India's refining systems led to a surge in imports of Russian Ural crude oil.

"Russian crude supports high distillate yields and is ideally suited to India's advanced refining infrastructure. It has enabled both state-owned and private refiners to operate above nameplate capacity while maintaining strong margins.

"A reversal of this will result in a mild yield shift and probably a small reduction in primary throughput rates, as margins will no longer command a sizeable premium against regional benchmarks, considering existing discounts on Russian oil," Kpler said.

The Indian government has issued diplomatic but firm responses to the US tariffs, emphasising the importance of maintaining energy security.

"Should Russian oil become inaccessible, India could face an additional USD 3-5 billion in annual import costs (based on a USD 5 per barrel premium on 1.8 million bpd). If global prices rise further (a scenario in which Russian crude exports are being curtailed, in the absence of sufficient buying interest from India), the financial burden could increase significantly," the report said.

This may prompt the government to cap retail fuel prices, which could strain fiscal balances. A spike in the import bill could even lead to a reduction in overall crude purchases. India's limited storage capacity further constrains its ability to manage such disruptions.

While Russian flows to India continue under a 'business-as-usual' stance, the escalating US rhetoric has reopened conversations about supply diversification, with some Indian refiners reportedly booking increased volumes of Middle Eastern crude.

According to Kpler, replacing 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude would require a multi-regional approach. The Middle East remains the most viable option operationally, grades such as WTI Midland from the US could contribute 2,00,000-4,00,000 bpd.

These (US crude) are lighter and yield less diesel, a disadvantage for India's distillate-heavy demand. Long-haul freight and cost considerations will also restrict scalability, it said.

West Africa and Latin America (LatAm) crudes offer moderate potential.

"A balanced replacement strategy may involve 60-70 per cent of substitute volumes from the Middle East, with US and African/LatAm crudes serving as tactical fillers. Nevertheless, none match Russian barrels in cost, quality, or reliability," it noted.

According to Kpler, Indian refiners can technically adapt to the loss of Russian barrels, but with significant economic consequences.

"Replacing 1.7-2.0 million bpd of discounted, medium-sour crude would erode refining margins and misalign product yields. Lighter substitutes like WTI or West African grades produce more gasoline and naphtha, reducing diesel output and hurting both domestic and export economics."

Even Middle Eastern grades, while closer in quality, are priced tightly to official selling prices (OSP), leaving limited arbitrage opportunities.

"In addition to higher feedstock costs, Indian refiners would face elevated freight and credit charges," it said.

"The transition is commercially painful, even if technically feasible." *—PTI*

SALAR سالار

'Assam evictions creating narrative before elections'

With the Assam government vowing to carry out a series of evictions to clear encroachments, political and social experts have criticised such move, saying that it is aimed at creating a 'narrative' ahead of the assembly elections next year.

Eminent people from different fields voiced their 'concern' in the manner the eviction drives are being conducted and alleged that people from different communities are brought to buffer zones of inter-state borders to protect it from aggression from neighbouring states, which have already occupied a huge chunk of Assam land.

The state government has carried out at least nine major eviction drives since June this year, affecting several thousand people.

"The agenda of the recent evictions is not clearing encroachments, but to set a narrative in Upper Assam. After Gaurav Gogoi's Lok Sabha win last year and post his appointment as Congress state chief, there has been a 'pro-Gaurav wave' in Upper Assam districts," eminent neurosurgeon Navanil Barua told PTI here.

The ruling BJP is trying to create a Hindu-Muslim narrative with these eviction drives and some local organisations have already held 'anti-Miya' protests, he added.

"I am sure that after March 2026, it will stop, and we may not hear about encroachment by Miyas for a long time thereafter," said Barua, also a political commentator.

'Miya' is originally a pejorative term used for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam, and the non-Bengali-speaking people generally identify them as Bangladeshi immigrants.

Referring to the massive eviction drive at Rengma Reserve Forest recently, Handique Girls' College Assistant Professor Pallavi Deka said that, as the people were evicted without "proper rehabilitation", it was more than just the government's reported attempt to save the jungle.

"The narrative building by the ruling party to 'save indigenous tribal commons' from illegal encroachers points towards a fierce communal polarisation in and around the upcoming elections," she added.

In the last 10 days, the Assam government has cleared alleged encroachments of over 1,400 hectares of land from Rengma Reserve Forest, Nambor South Reserve Forest and Doyang Reserve Forest in Golaghat district, and Village Grazing Reserve in Lakhimpur.

These drives have displaced around 2,200 families, mostly from the Bengali-speaking Muslim community.

On these recent evictions, eminent advocate Santanu Borthakur said: "If it is a forest land, then whosoever stays there for whatever longer period, it does not give them legal rights to settle there permanently."

However, targeting only one community, as seen in the recent cases in Golaghat is "absolutely discriminatory", he added.

"The CM's recent comment that no eviction will take place against people from other communities is anti-Constitution and not permitted by law," Borthakur said.

In Rengma, 1,500 Muslim families were evicted. The remaining families are from Bodo, Nepali, Manipuri and other communities, who have certificates from the Forest Rights Committee (FRC).

According to Kaustubh Deka, an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Dibrugarh University, the eviction drive is a significant and sensitive moment for the state, and the whole episode highlights the critical bearing of the state's complex socio-political history.

"The government must maintain a fair balance between three aspects. One, the allegation that genuine Indian citizens are being selectively targeted, needs to be addressed in all earnestness. Two, the rights given to people under progressive environmental legislations such as 'Forest Rights Act' need to be respected," he added.

Also, care should be taken that the ongoing process doesn't trigger complications in Assam's already volatile border dispute scenario with many of its neighbouring states, Deka said.

Talking about alleged encroachments in inter-state border areas in Rengma, advocate Borthakur said that normally in border areas, the government settles people in the buffer zones so that no encroachment takes place from the opposite side.

"We can see such habitation in all border areas. Usually minorities, Gorkha and Bihari people, are settled in such locations," he added.

Barua too supported his claim and said that in all the border areas with neighbouring states, usually people or communities originally from outside are settled.

"The indigenous people usually do not live there. People from communities like Adivasis, Gorkhas and minorities live in such areas," he added.

The reserve forests witnessing recent evictions are along Assam-Nagaland border, where people from the neighbouring state had allegedly attempted to occupy land. The evicted people claimed that their previous generation was settled in the forest by the Golap Borbora government in 1978-79 and the AGP government, which came to power in 1985.

Borthakur said, "Without considering the historical background, carrying out an eviction is not appropriate. Legally, the government has the power, but the manner in which that power was exercised is not acceptable. It is inhuman and arbitrary."He also stressed that evicting people without rehabilitation is wrong.

Echoing similar sentiments, Deka said, "This is against all democratic norms and practices. Utterly inhumane. Even the Supreme Court judgement says that even pavement dwellers cannot be evicted without rehabilitation." *—PTI*

These drives have displaced around 2,200 families, mostly from the Bengali-speaking Muslim community
PHOTO: PTI

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

'Mule account' menace: Lucknow's youth fuel global cyber fraud network

On transaction days, mule account holders are escorted to banks to withdraw cash immediately after large NEFT, RTGS, or IMPS transfers
PHOTO: FREEPIK

- Shaken, Ajay turned approver, helping investigators identify other account holders and middlemen in a growing nexus that links the narrow lanes of Chowk, Indira Nagar, and Vrindavan Yojna, Sushant Golf City to handlers operating out of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Ajay, a 24-year-old restaurant waiter from the winding lanes of Old Lucknow, thought he had stumbled upon an easy way to make money.

A friend introduced him to a crypto trader who offered Rs 20,000 if Ajay allowed the use of his bank account for a day's transaction. Tempted, he agreed.

The next morning, lakhs of rupees flowed into his account before these were withdrawn under someone else's instructions, and handed over to strangers.

Within weeks, police knocked on Ajay's door. The money, they told him, was part of an elaborate international cyber fraud routed through his account.

Shaken, Ajay turned approver, helping investigators identify other account holders and middlemen in a growing nexus that links the narrow lanes of Chowk, Indira Nagar, and Vrindavan Yojna, Sushant Golf City to handlers operating out of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Police investigations by Crime Branch and Cyber Cell over the past three months reveal that dozens of mule accounts - bank accounts used to launder illicit funds - belong to young men and women from Lucknow.

Many work in restaurants, small shops, or contractual jobs; others are college students. Lured by commissions ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000, they knowingly lend their accounts to local facilitators, who route cyber fraud proceeds into cryptocurrency, mainly USDT (Tether), through unregulated peer-to-peer networks on the TRC-20 blockchain.

How the Network Operates

According to police, the operations are coordinated on encrypted Telegram channels run by Chinese handlers or their proxies in the Chinese language. Local recruiters collect account details and documents - often avoiding proper KYC or using forged papers.

On transaction days, mule account holders are escorted to banks to withdraw cash immediately after large NEFT, RTGS, or IMPS transfers. The cash is then handed to crypto brokers, who convert it into USDT using decentralized, non-KYC wallets. Crypto wallets like Binance were found preferred choices.

The funds come from a range of cybercrimes in India: online investment frauds, fake job or task schemes, sextortion, and bogus trading platforms. Victims' payments are funnelled into mule accounts before disappearing into the blockchain - beyond the jurisdiction of any single country.

In just the last two months, Lucknow police tracked Rs 5 lakh to Rs 5 crore being laundered through such accounts, with all funds eventually converted into USDT and sent abroad. The network avoids legal exchanges, taxation, and banking compliance, disguising its activity as "crypto trading".

Lucknow -- A Hub for Mule Accounts

What alarms police is the concentration of mule accounts in Old Lucknow localities like Chowk, Indira Nagar, Madiyaon, Malihabad and Bakshi Ka Talab as well as recently-developed neighbourhoods like Sushant Golf City, Vrindavan Yojna and suburban Mohanlalganj, Gosainganj areas.

The police also detained for questioning around 60 young men from different areas who were found as the actual holders of the accounts used as mules in cases of cyber fraud that involved crores of rupees.

"These young people aren't hardened criminals, but their actions enable large-scale fraud," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Lucknow South) Rallapalli Vasanth Kumar told PTI.

Kumar, who has been involved in busting multiple such gangs in the capital, said, "Several youth have confessed regret, admitting they underestimated the legal risks."

The phenomenon also ties into the darker side of the global cybercrime economy: cyber slavery rackets in Southeast Asia. Thousands of Indians are trafficked or lured abroad with fake job offers, then forced to work in scam factories targeting victims in India and elsewhere - feeding proceeds back into networks that rely on mule accounts at home.

The Way Ahead

While Lucknow police have cracked multiple such cases and identified the pattern, officials admit the scale and sophistication make detection difficult. The combination of encrypted communication, decentralized crypto wallets, and disposable bank accounts leaves little paper trail.

The Uttar Pradesh Police and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), a dedicated unit of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, have drawn up a joint action plan to strengthen the state's cybercrime response.

At a high-level meeting chaired by DGP Rajeev Krishna on 6 August, officials agreed to set up a dedicated Cyber Crime Centre, create a special unit for offences against women and children, identify fraud hotspots, and deploy trained tech-savvy personnel. Public awareness drives will also be expanded.

During a video conference on 8 August with police chiefs of all 75 districts, the DGP directed that cyber cells be manned only by trained officers, NCRP portal usage be maximised, and CyTrain enrolment via I4C be completed within 15 days.

As for Ajay, he now warns his friends never to "rent out" their accounts.

"I thought it was just extra cash," he says.

"Now I know it was crime - and I'm lucky I got a second chance." *—PTI*

PHOTO: FB

Chad Oppn leader jailed for 20 yrs for inciting violence

DAKAR, 10 AUG

Chad's criminal court has sentenced Success Masra, the former prime minister and Opposition leader, to 20 years in prison. Convicted on charges including incitement to hatred and complicity to murder, the verdict was linked to violence between herders and farmers that resulted in 35 deaths in May. Masra, who was also fined 1 billion CFA francs (approximately USD 1.8 million), expressed solidarity with his supporters, stating, "Stand firm," before leaving court. His lawyer, Kadjilembay Francis, condemned the ruling as "ignominy and unworthy humiliation" and confirmed plans to appeal. Masra, leader of the Les Transformateurs party, has been a vocal critic of President Mahamat Déby, who assumed power in 2021. *—PTI*

Three Thai soldiers injured in landmine blast

BANGKOK, 10 AUG

Three Thai soldiers were injured by a landmine while patrolling the border with Cambodia, reported the Royal Thai Armed Forces on 10 August. This follows a violent five-day conflict last month. The incident occurred on Saturday morning between Thailand's Sisaket and Cambodia's Preah Vihear provinces, resulting in one soldier losing a foot, while two others sustained severe injuries. According to the military, "One soldier suffered a severe leg injury, another was wounded in the back and arm, and the third had extreme pressure damage to the ear." Cambodia's Defence Ministry stated it had "yet to receive clear confirmation from Cambodian frontline forces". Thailand alleged a violation of a treaty banning landmines. *—ANI*

Labubu dolls worth $7,000 stolen in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 10 AUG

A group of masked thieves made off with approximately 7,000 dollar worth of Labubu dolls from a store in La Puente, California, earlier this week, according to local authorities. The incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday morning, with the LA County Sheriff's Department stating that the suspects used a stolen Toyota Tacoma, which was recovered shortly after the crime. The Labubu toy, created by Hong Kong artist Kasing Lung, has gained popularity as a collectible item since its introduction a decade ago. One Stop Shop, the affected vendor, shared footage showing hooded individuals looting the store and urged the public for assistance in identifying the thieves. *—PTI*

Haiti declares emergency amid rising violence

SAN JUAN, 10 AUG

Haiti's government has declared a three-month state of emergency in the central region due to escalating gang violence. This measure will affect the West, Artibonite, and Centre departments, aimed at combating insecurity and addressing the agricultural and food crisis, according to an official statement. These areas, recognised as Haiti's rice basket, have faced increased violence, with gangs killing farmers and destroying communities. The United Nations' human rights office reported over 1,000 killings, more than 200 injuries, and 620 kidnappings in the Artibonite and Central departments between October 2024 and June 2025. Violence has displaced over 2,39,000 in the region, prompting attempts to flee across the country's largest river. *—PTI*

US mulls inviting Zelenskyy to join Trump–Putin talks

Europe insists that ceasefire talks must involve Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 10 AUG

The White House is considering inviting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin's summit in Alaska, a White House official reportedly said. The Kremlin had earlier ruled out any trilateral meeting.

However, it remains unclear if Zelenskyy will attend the meeting as details are yet to be finalised, The Hill reported.

"(Trump) remains open to a trilateral summit with both leaders. (But) right now, the White House is planning the bilateral meeting requested by President Putin," a senior White House official told The Hill's NewsNation on Saturday.

US President Donald Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin *PHOTO: PTI*

Trump announced on Friday that he will meet with Putin in Alaska next week to discuss ending the over three-year-long war between Russia and Ukraine. Trump confirmed on Truth Social the meeting will take place in Alaska on 15 August.

This comes after Zelenskyy ruled out ceding any land to Russia in exchange for a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's European allies said that ceasefire talks should only happen if Ukraine is at the table.

"The path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine," a joint statement issued by the leaders of the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Finland and the European Commission said. "Ukraine has the freedom of choice over its own destiny."

Reiterating their support to the Ukrainian cause and a diplomatic solution to end the war, the leaders added that they "will continue to cooperate closely with Trump".

Meanwhile, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, Zelenskyy's top adviser Andriy Yermak, US Vice President JD Vance, and European national security advisors met in Kent, England, to discuss the ceasefire proposal. *—Agencies*

Iran vows to block Caucasus corridor

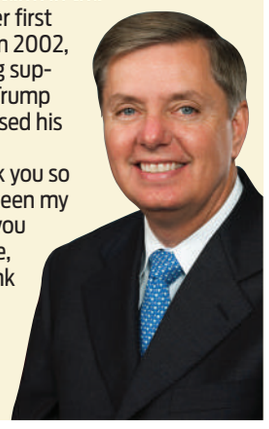
Iran has announced it will block a planned transport corridor in the Caucasus under a US-brokered peace accord between Azerbaijan and Armenia, describing the initiative as "political treachery" aimed at undermining Armenia's territorial integrity. A top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader, said that Tehran would obstruct the corridor "with or without Russia".

Trump nominates Bruce as UN representative

Trump nominated Fox News personality and political commentator Tammy Bruce as the next US Deputy Representative to the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador. "Since the beginning of my Second Term, Tammy has been serving with distinction as Spokesperson of the State Department, where she did a fantastic job. Tammy Bruce will represent our Country brilliantly at the United Nations," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Trump endorses Graham for 2026 Senate race

Trump gave his "full endorsement" to Senator Lindsey Graham for his 2026 re-election bid in South Carolina, surprising the Republican lawmaker with a personal phone call during a public gathering on Saturday. Graham, who is seeking a fifth term in the US Senate after first being elected in 2002, was addressing supporters when Trump called and praised his long-time ally. "Lindsey, thank you so much, you've been my friend. I know you are in a big race, and I don't think it's going to be a contest," Trump said over phone.



A file photo of US President Donald Trump greeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu *PHOTO: PTI*

Trump signals support for Bibi's Gaza takeover plan

WASHINGTON/BEIRUT, 10 AUG

US President Donald Trump has signalled tacit approval for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to take over the Gaza Strip, framing it as an Israeli decision amid growing international criticism, The Hill reported.

While committing the US to lead humanitarian aid efforts amid Gaza's dire crisis, Trump refrained from opposing Israel's military expansion in the region. "As far as the rest of it, I really can't say. That's going to be pretty much up to Israel," he said.

Netanyahu's move, approved by Israel's Security Cabinet, has deepened divisions domestically and isolated Israel from European, Arab, and Gulf allies. Germany announced a halt on military exports to Israel for use in Gaza, following similar stances by France, Canada, and the UK, which has called an emergency UN Security Council meeting.

BLAST KILLS SIX LEBANESE SOLDIERS

At least six Lebanese soldiers have been killed in an explosion while inspecting a weapons depot in southern Lebanon, the country's military announced on Saturday, Al Jazeera reported.

In a statement, the Lebanese army said the unit was dismantling the contents of the depot in the Wadi Zibqin area, in the Tyre region, when the explosion occurred. It said other soldiers were injured but did not specify how many.

"An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the incident," the statement said. *—Agencies*

26 PEOPLE were killed by Israeli strikes in Gaza, as the starvation toll reached 217, including 100 kids

> **The times are very dangerous now, and it's important that the international community shoulders its responsibility. The impunity with which Israel was happily moving should stop**
>
> —Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, Palestinian Foreign Affairs Minister

Yunus calls for full security for 'free, fair, peaceful polls'

DHAKA, 10 AUG

Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has called for "complete security" at polling centres for the country's general elections set to take place in February 2026, stressing the need to make the polls "free, fair and peaceful", a media report said on Sunday.

The interim government head made the remarks on Saturday at a high-level meeting at the state guest house Jamuna here, reported the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

"We must guarantee complete security at all polling centres, no matter the cost. Our goal is to make the February election the most free, fair, and peaceful in the country's history," Yunus was quoted as saying.

- Yunus' special assistant on Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology Affairs Faiz Tayeb Ahmed said the process to procure 40,000 body cameras was in the final stages

Yunus' special assistant on Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology Affairs Faiz Tayeb Ahmed said the process to procure 40,000 body cameras was in the final stages.

The use of bodycams by police personnel will enhance security at voting booths during the upcoming elections, he said.

"We are aiming to procure the bodycams by October so police officers can receive adequate training on their key features, including AI capabilities," he added.

Yunus ordered officials to expedite the process and ensure proper training for the police personnel, according to the report. *—PTI*

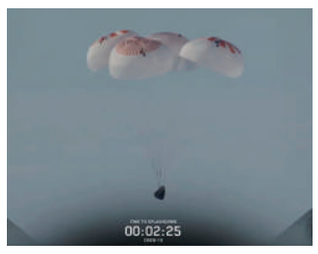
NASA astronauts return after five months in space

WASHINGTON, 10 AUG

Four astronauts successfully returned to Earth on Saturday after a five-month mission to the International Space Station (ISS), where they relieved the stranded pilots of Boeing's Starliner. Their SpaceX capsule splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off the Southern California coast, a day after departing the orbiting lab.

"Welcome home," SpaceX Mission Control announced as the capsule touched down. Onboard were NASA's Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, Japan's Takuya Onishi, and Russia's Kirill Peskov.

McClain remarked on "some tumultuous times on Earth" and expressed hope that their mission would inspire unity: "We want this mission, our mission, to be a reminder of what people can do when we work together, when we explore together." *—PTI*



SpaceX capsule carrying four astronauts parachutes into the Pacific Ocean on Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

Demonstrators hold placards during a protest at Parliament Square in London, in support of Palestinians in Gaza *PHOTO: PTI*

474 arrested in UK over 'Palestine Action' protest

LONDON, 10 AUG

The Metropolitan Police said it made 474 arrests during the UK's largest protest in support of Palestine Action, which was recently banned by the government, making it a criminal offence to show any backing for the group.

While 466 of those arrested during a demonstration in London on Saturday were detained under the UK's Terrorism Act for showing support for a proscribed group, eight others were held for other offences including assaulting police officers.

The Met Police, the country's largest police force, said it marked the most arrests made in a single operation in a decade.

"Our role in the context of protest remains as it always has been – to police without fear or favour, to enforce the law, to keep the peace by ensuring groups with opposing views do not come together and to prevent serious disorder and serious disruption to ordinary people going about their lives," said Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ade Adelekan, who led the policing operation. *—PTI*

Indian couple attacked in Canada

TORONTO, 10 AUG

A shocking incident of harassment targeting an Indian couple by a group of Canadian youngsters took place in the parking lot of Lansdowne Place Mall in Peterborough, Ontario. The altercation, recorded on video, has since gone viral online.

Footage shared by the victim reveals three Canadian men in a pickup truck verbally assaulting the couple, blocking their exit. "Do you want me to get out of the car and f****ng kill you?" one man shouted. The assailants further mocked the couple with obscene gestures and racist remarks. One man was seen exiting the vehicle and humping the couple's car.

The Indian man said, "I and my partner are still traumatised... we want justice." Following the incident, an 18-year-old man from the City of Kawartha Lakes was arrested and charged with uttering threats. He is scheduled to appear in court on 16 September.

Peterborough Police said, "The behaviour is not acceptable in our community, nor any community," according to Chief Stuart Betts. *—Agencies*

Amazon sellers linked to Pak's exploitative firms

ISLAMABAD, 10 AUG

A new report from the campaign group Labour Behind the Label (LBL) has exposed widespread labour violations in Pakistan-based garment factories supplying Amazon Marketplace sellers, as reported by the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre. The investigation reveals routine exploitation, underpaid workers, and systemic abuse occurring in a country that has long turned a blind eye to workers' rights.

The months-long investigation identified three sellers – Chums, Ice Cool Fashion and A2Z 4 Kids –whose products trace back to factories in Pakistan, specifically Faisalabad, a city notorious for its poorly regulated textile industry. Researchers interviewed 40 workers, collecting harrowing accounts of forced overtime, wage theft, and inhumane working conditions.

A textile factory in Pakistan *PHOTO: ANI*

Workers reported being forced to work well beyond legal hours. On top of their 8am to 5:30pm shifts, many are made to work two to four additional hours daily, often without the legally required overtime pay.

Pakistani law mandates double wages for overtime, yet employers flout these regulations with impunity. *—ANI*

'BRACING FOR POLITICAL MANIPULATION'

China's silent war: Undersea cables & tech

BEIJING, 10 AUG

PHOTO: CHATGPT

As the global battle for technological supremacy intensifies, national security experts are sounding the alarm over China's creeping dominance in telecommunications, an invisible war being waged far below the surface through undersea cables, data centres, and surveillance platforms.

Salih Hudayar, Foreign Minister for the East Turkestan government-in-exile, warns that China's grip on global communications infrastructure poses a direct threat to democracy and security in the West. "It's not just a trade issue. It's war, an information war," Hudayar told Pieuvre. "And the West is losing."

Undersea cables, critical for internet and communications connectivity, are now central to China's strategy. These massive, often-unnoticed arteries of digital life are increasingly built or controlled by Chinese state-linked firms. Hudayar said that allowing Beijing to dominate this infrastructure risks giving a totalitarian regime access to sensitive data and the means to cripple Western economies and militaries in a crisis.

Hudayar revealed that China is rapidly building massive AI data centres in East Turkestan, an occupied region where the Uighur population continues to face state persecution. Shockingly, many of these projects are powered by Western-manufactured chips, despite export restrictions.

"This is the absurdity of the situation," said Hudayar. "The US is enabling China's growth by selling advanced tech, all in the name of short-term trade stability. Meanwhile, Beijing is turning it into a weapon."

Another major front in this covert war is TikTok, which Hudayar called a "surveillance platform masquerading as entertainment." *—ANI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

BEML secures first overseas rail-metro contract

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

State-owned BEML has announced its first overseas contract in the rail and metro sector, secured from Malaysia for the retrofit and reconditioning of the Mass Rapid Transport System, valued at USD 1 million. The company informed the stock exchanges, stating, "BEML Limited received its maiden overseas contract in the Rail and Metro segment from Malaysia on 09, August, 2025." Operating under the Ministry of Defence, BEML supports key sectors such as defence, rail, power, mining, and construction. The firm recently inaugurated a state-of-the-art warehousing facility in Bengaluru's KIADB Aerospace SEZ, emphasising its long-term vision to bolster India's aerospace growth and support a robust supply chain for global and domestic Original Equipment Manufacturers. *—ANI*

William Grant launches ₹70L Scotch whisky

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

India is a high priority market for the leading Scotch whisky and premium spirits maker William Grant & Sons, with potential to become one of its top five markets globally in the coming years, a top company official has said. The Scotland-based spirits maker has unveiled 'The Balvenie Fifty', a 50-year-old Speyside single malt scotch whisky in the Indian market. Only one bottle of 'The Balvenie Fifty First Edition' aged in a European oak refill cask, filled in 1973, has been made available in India, offering a unique opportunity for collectors and connoisseurs to own a piece of whisky history. When asked about its price, Mehta said: "Balvenie Fifty is probably going to be in the range of Rs 70 lakh thereabouts". *—PTI*

Tesla to launch new Experience Centre in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Tesla is set to open its new Experience Centre on 11 August in New Delhi, marking a significant development in the India chapter of the US automobile major. The Delhi centre of Tesla is located at Worldmark 3 in the Aerocity area of the national capital. It will offer visitors an opportunity to explore Tesla's latest electric vehicles introduced in India. In a post on social media platform X, Tesla wrote, "Tesla Experience Centre, Aerocity - opening tomorrow, 11 August, at 2pm. Delhi, Worldmark 3." This centre will be the second showroom of Tesla after its first centre in Mumbai, located at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). *—ANI*

Foreign investors pull out ₹18,000 crore amid tariffs

Depository data peg total outflows at ₹1.13L crore in 2025

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Foreign investors have pulled out nearly Rs 18,000 crore from Indian equities so far this month, weighed down by escalating US-India trade tensions, disappointing first-quarter corporate earnings, and a weakening Indian rupee.

With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities has reached Rs 1.13 lakh crore so far in 2025, according to data from the depositories.

Going forward, FPI sentiment is expected to remain "fragile and in risk-off mode," with tariffs and trade negotiations emerging as key factors to watch out for in the coming week, according to Vaqarjaved Khan, CFA, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One.

The data showed that FPIs withdrew a net sum of Rs 17,924 crore from equities in this month till 8 August.

The latest outflows were primarily due to escalating US-India trade tensions, disappointing first-quarter corporate earnings and a weakening Indian rupee
PHOTO: FREEPIK

Foreign investors had pulled out Rs 17,741 crore on a net basis in July. Before that, FPIs invested Rs 38,673 crore in the preceding three months from March to June.

The latest outflows were primarily due to escalating US-India trade tensions, disappointing first-quarter corporate earnings and a weakening Indian rupee, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

- FPI sentiment is expected to remain 'fragile and in risk-off mode', with tariffs and trade negotiations emerging as key factors to watch out for in the coming week

From 1 August, the US imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods and increased these tariffs by an additional 25 per cent during the current week. This spooked the markets and FPIs, leading to a massive sell-off in Indian equities, Angel One's Khan said.

Along with tariffs, rising US Treasury yields also led to foreign money moving towards treasuries, he added.

On the other hand, FPIs invested Rs 3,432 crore in the debt general limit and put in Rs 58 crore in the debt voluntary retention route during the period under review. *—PTI*

SOFT LOANS SOUGHT

Shrimp exporters seek assistance amid $2B exports threat

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

The Seafood Export Association of India (SEAI) has reached out to the ministries of commerce and finance, requesting urgent financial assistance as shrimp exports valued at USD 2 billion confront significant disruptions due to heightened tariffs enacted by US President Donald Trump.

In a statement released on Sunday, SEAI Secretary General KN Raghavan highlighted that the association is seeking a 30 per cent increase in working capital through soft loans, proposing that margins be covered by interest subsidies, alongside a 240-day moratorium for pre- and post-packaging operations.

"Close to USD 2 billion worth of shrimp exports face severe disruptions," Raghavan said, noting that Trump recently escalated reciprocal tariffs from 25 per cent to as high as 50 per cent. In 2024, India exported USD 2.8 billion of shrimp to the US and has already dispatched USD 500 million worth this year.

Due to these new tariffs, Indian seafood exports are significantly less competitive when compared to those from countries such as China, Vietnam, and Thailand, which face US tariffs ranging from only 20 to 30 per cent. Raghavan cautioned that these Asian competitors would likely seize market share in the US by reducing prices, while Indian exporters are unable to reroute existing shipments. *—PTI*

Top six firms' mcap declined by ₹1.36L cr

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

PHOTO: FREEPIK

The combined market valuation of six of the top ten valued firms diminished by Rs 1,36,151.24 crore last week, with Reliance Industries experiencing the largest decline following a bearish trend in equities. The BSE benchmark extended its losing streak for the sixth consecutive week, plummeting by 742.12 points or 0.92 per cent, while the NSE Nifty fell by 202.05 points or 0.82 per cent.

Among the top ten firms, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, and Hindustan Unilever saw their valuations erode. In contrast, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), and Bajaj Finance recorded gains.

Reliance Industries' valuation plummeted by Rs 34,710.8 crore to Rs 18,51,174.59 crore, while HDFC Bank's market capitalisation (mcap) decreased by Rs 29,722.04 crore to Rs 15,14,303.58 crore. Additionally, ICICI Bank's mcap fell by Rs 24,719.45 crore to Rs 10,25,495.69 crore, and Infosys declined by Rs 19,504.31 crore to Rs 5,91,423.02 crore.

In contrast, LIC's mcap rose by Rs 17,678.37 crore to Rs 5,77,187.67 crore, and TCS saw an increase of Rs 11,360.8 crore to Rs 10,97,908.66 crore. Reliance Industries remains the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank and TCS. *—PTI*

Trade news, inflation, FII to guide markets

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Stock markets will be driven by inflation data, trade-related news, earnings and trading activity of foreign investors in a holiday-shortened week, analysts said on Sunday.

Global market trends will also influence trading sentiment this week, they added. Equity markets would remain closed on Friday for Independence Day.

"This week, attention will turn to domestic CPI and WPI inflation data. Developments in the US–India trade relations will also remain in focus amid ongoing discussions over a trade agreement. The earnings season is nearing its end, with key results due from Ashok Leyland, ONGC, IOC, Hindalco Industries, BPCL and others, which could drive stock-specific action," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Extending losing streak for the sixth consecutive week, the BSE benchmark dropped 742.12 points or 0.92 per cent, and the Nifty declined 202.05 points or 0.82 per cent.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

"Key factors to watch this week are trade negotiations, macroeconomic data, earnings and FII flows," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart, said.

Any updates or posturing from India and the US will remain a primary market driver, he said. "India, the US, and China will release key numbers, with US inflation data (12 August) being especially crucial in the backdrop of higher tariffs. India's inflation numbers will also be released on the same day," Meena noted. The Q1 earnings season is nearly over, but a few companies are yet to announce results, he said.

Foreign investors have pulled out nearly Rs 18,000 crore from Indian equities so far this month. *—PTI*

NSE's new investors rise by 15% in June

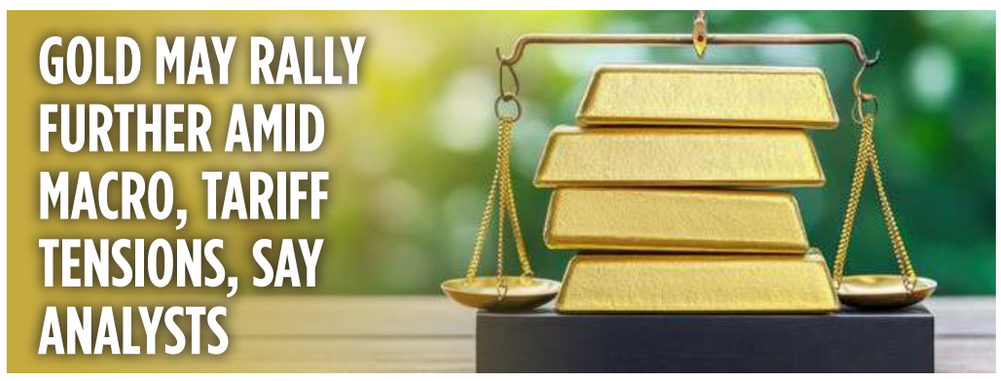
NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

New investor registrations at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) rose 15 per cent month-on-month to 1.27M in June 2025, up from 1.1M in May. However, this was significantly lower than June 2024's 2.16M, according to the NSE Market Pulse report.

Regionally, West India led with a 20.5 per cent increase, followed by South India at 15.2per cent, North India at 13.4per cent, and East India at 10.4per cent.

Uttar Pradesh topped the states with 180,000 new registrations (14per cent), a 13.1per cent rise from May. Maharashtra (12per cent), Tamil Nadu (7per cent), West Bengal (7per cent), and Karnataka (6per cent) also contributed significantly.

Together, these five states made up 46per cent of all new investors in June. *—ANI*



NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Gold prices are likely to extend gains in the coming week, as macroeconomic uncertainty, tariff disputes and central bank buying continue to underpin investor appetite for the precious metal, according to analysts.

Traders will closely monitor a series of key macroeconomic data releases from major economies, including the UK and EU GDP, the US Core PPI and Core CPI.

Speeches by US Federal Reserve officials will also be in focus for further guidance on the near-term trajectory for the gold prices.

Prathamesh Mallya, DVP – Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies at Angel One, said gold prices continue to rally and make new highs in the international as well as domestic futures.

"From the lows of Rs 98,079 per 10g made on July 28, to the highs of Rs 1,02,250 per 10g, the shine in gold prices continues to increase the wealth of gold investors. In the international markets, prices have surged from USD 3,268 per ounce on July 30 to USD 3,534.10 per ounce as of August 8. The rally seems unstoppable," he said.

Last week, the most traded gold futures for October contracts climbed Rs 1,763 or 1.77 per cent on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Mallya attributed part of the rally to heightened tariff situation, which has caused chaos across the global world order and if it escalates further, then, gold might see further rally in the precious metal prices in the international markets towards USD 3,800 per ounce mark, while MCX futures will move higher towards Rs 1,10,000 per 10g mark over the next three months. *—PTI*

Trade negotiations between India and Oman conclude

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Negotiations for a comprehensive trade deal between India and Oman, which began in 2023, have now been concluded, announced Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) marks a significant milestone in the longstanding relationship between the two countries, which dates back centuries and was formalised diplomatically in 1955. Their ties were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2008, with growing bilateral trade and investment since.

However, the Minister did not specify when the Economic Partnership Agreement would be signed or come into force. *—ANI*

Forex reserves down by $9.3B to $688.71B

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

India's foreign exchange reserves (forex) reported a sharp decline, slipping USD 9.32 billion to USD 688.871 billion in the week ending August 1, official data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed.

At the latest monetary policy meeting, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the foreign exchange kitty was sufficient to meet 11 months of the country's imports.

Despite this weekly dip, the forex kitty is close to its all-time high of USD 704.89 billion touched in September 2024.

The latest RBI data showed that India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at USD 581.607 billion.

According to RBI data, the gold reserves currently amount to USD 83.998 billion, with a USD 1.706 billion decline. Central banks worldwide had been increasingly accumulating safe-haven gold in their foreign exchange reserves kitty, and India was no exception. The share of gold maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its foreign exchange reserves has almost doubled since 2021.

In 2023, India added around USD 58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves. *—ANI*

PHOTO: ANI

PNB targets 50% recovery from sale of NPAs

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's second-largest public sector lender, plans to sell over 100 non-performing asset (NPA) accounts worth Rs 4,000-5,000 crore to asset reconstruction companies this financial year. The bank expects an average recovery of 40-50 per cent from these sales, with some accounts potentially yielding full recovery due to strong security.

PNB aims to reach a total business size of Rs 30 lakh crore by March 2026, having recorded Rs 27.19 lakh crore at the end of June. The bank posted its highest ever operating profit of Rs 7,081 crore in Q1 and is focusing on profitable growth by reducing bulk and corporate deposits.

Credit growth targets for FY26 stand at 11-12 per cent, with deposit growth at 9-10 per cent. The corporate loan pipeline is Rs 1.29 lakh crore, with decisions promised within 15 days to boost borrower confidence. The bank is also prioritising MSME, retail loans, agriculture, and rural infrastructure, targeting strong growth in these sectors. *—PTI*

FOREIGN ADMISSION CHALLENGES

'India emerging as global education hub'

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

As global universities tighten their admission policies and visa challenges grow, India is rising as a global education hub, prompting many students to rethink their study-abroad plans, according to several top officials of educational institutions.

Top officials of many eminent educational institutions said that initiatives such as e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for international learners to access Indian educational institutions.

Amruta Ruikar, Head of International Admissions and Promotions, Symbiosis International University, said, "India is not just reforming education - we're reimagining our role in the global academic community. With the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as our foundation, we're opening pathways for joint degrees, credit transfers, and cross-border collaborations."

Initiatives such as e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for foreigners to access Indian educational institutions
PHOTO: ANI

"Programs like Study in India, ICCR scholarships, and GIAN reflect a clear intent: to make India a destination, not just a departure point, for quality education. New steps like the e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for international learners to access our institutions. But beyond policies, what truly sets us apart is our willingness to welcome, especially students from regions facing economic or political uncertainty," she further added.

Experts further added that the Indian institutions are stepping in with an alternative that combines globally benchmarked curricula, interdisciplinary programs and rich international exposure.

According to a recent report by rating agency ICRA, India's higher education institutions are expected to record a revenue growth of 9-11 per cent in FY2026. *—ANI*

PHOTO: X/@PTI

Eyeing Test recall: Marnus Labuschagne

MELBOURNE, 10 AUG

Eyeing a recall into Australia's squad for the Ashes, the doughty Marnus Labuschagne is doing everything in his capacity to "find a way back" and "prove the doubters wrong", including putting his hand up for opening the innings against England. Labuschagne was dropped from the Test side for the first time since 2019 at the start of the recent series in the West Indies, having averaged 27.82 with one hundred over the previous two years.He spent the time away from the Test team training extensively with the coaching staff at home instead of doing a stint in Country cricket or turning out for Australia A."This (being left out) has allowed me to reflect and not have the pressure of the media saying, 'Marnus has got to go'," Labuschagne told News Corp in his first interview since losing his spot, according to ESPNCricinfo."I mean, that's part of the game.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

'Slide in FIFA chart is due to complex ranking system'

NEW DELHI, 10 AUG

All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey on Sunday sought to attribute the national men's team's slide in the FIFA chart to a "complex and fluctuating" nature of the ranking system but expressed hope for a turnaround with wins over teams placed higher in the list.The Indian team slumped to its lowest ranking in nine years as it dropped six places to 133rd in the FIFA chart issued on 10 July."FIFA ranking is based on the historical performance of a national team in the international matches played in the preceding years. It is determined using the Elo Model. This method adds or subtracts points for matches to or from a team's existing total points,Chaubey said.—*PTI*

2 Japanese boxers die from brain injuries

TOKYO, 10 AUG

Two Japanese boxers have died from brain injuries sustained in separate bouts on the same card at Tokyo's Korakuen Hall. Shigetoshi Kotari, 28, collapsed shortly after completing a 12-round draw against Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation junior lightweight champion Yamato Hata on 2 Aug.He underwent emergency brain surgery for a subdural hematoma, a condition where blood collects between the brain and skull, but died on Friday.—*PTI*

Lozano scores as SDFC stays hot on the road

KANSAS CITY, 10 AUG

Hirving Lozano scored a goal and Anders Dreyer found the back of the net and recorded another assist, and San Diego FC continued its road surge, beating Sporting KC 2-0. It was the fifth straight road win for San Diego (15-7-4) and its eighth road win in its inaugural season. San Diego is 7-2-1 in its last 10 MLS contests. Pending the outcome of the San Jose, Vancouver FC match, San Diego could end the night by itself atop the Western Conference ahead of Vancouver. Kansas City (6-13-6) failed to score again against the Western Conference's top teams as it was coming off a 3-0 loss to Vancouver on 26 July. Lozano scored in the 23rd minute on Saturday—*PTI*

Rohit, Kohli phenomenal in ODIs: Sourav amid exit buzz

Both have already played their last in T20Is and Tests

KOLKATA, 10 AUG

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma *PHOTO: PTI*

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Sunday feels Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli should continue playing ODIs as long as they are performing, given their "phenomenal" record in the fifty-overs format.

Reacting to media reports suggesting that the upcoming ODI series in Australia could be the last for the celebrated duo, Ganguly said he was not aware of any such development.

"I'm not aware of this, can't comment on this," he remarked when asked about the speculation.

Ganguly, however, emphasized that performance should be the primary factor in determining their careers' longevity. "It's difficult to say. Whoever does well will play. If they do well, they should continue. Kohli's one-day record is phenomenal, even Rohit Sharma's. Both of them are phenomenal in white-ball cricket," he said during the AWL Agri Business Ltd Event.

According to reports, the tour of Australia in October could mark the final ODI appearances for the two Indian greats Kohli and Rohit, who have already played their last in T20Is and Tests.

The duo has so far remained non-committal on whether they are targeting the 2027 World Cup.

India's ODI tour of Australia begins on October 19, with matches scheduled in Perth, Adelaide, and Sydney, followed by three home ODIs against South Africa in December.

The 2026 calendar features ODI series against New Zealand, Afghanistan, England, the West Indies, and another contest against New Zealand. On the upcoming T20 Asia Cup in Dubai from September 9, Ganguly said the Indian team would be the favorites, coming off a much-needed break after the gruelling five Tests in England.

BCCI IS NOT IN A HURRY TO TAKE A CALL ON KOHLI-ROHIT'S FUTURE

It's that time of the year when speculation is rife about the impending ODI future of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but if one goes by the decision makers in the Indian cricket board, there is no tearing hurry to take an immediate call on the two maestros.

Sourav Ganguly *PHOTO: PTI*

With the Bangladesh series scheduled in August being called off, India's next ODI assignment will be an away series from October 19-25 against Australia.Indian cricket runs on narratives, and currently, it is about whether Kohli and Rohit, with a cumulative 83 ODI hundreds and 25,000-plus runs, can last till the October 2027 ODI World Cup when they would be 39 and 40 years old, respectively. —*PTI*

ASIAN SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ramesh Budhial clinches bronze, becomes 1st Indian to win medal at Asian Surfing Championships
PHOTO: X @MEDIA_SAI

India's Ramesh Budhial wins bronze medal

CHENNAI, 10 AUG

Ramesh Budhial became the first-ever Indian to win a medal in the Asian Surfing Championships while clinching the bronze in the Open Men's category here on Sunday.

Budhial, also the first-ever from the country to reach the medal round, accumulated 12.60 points to bag bronze.

The gold went to Kanoa Heejae of Korea, who led the field with 15.17 points, while Indonesia's Pajar Ariyana grabbed silver with 14.57 points.

In the Open Women's category, Japan's Anri Matsuno (14.90 points) won the gold, warding off stiff competition from compatriot Sumomo Sato (13.70).

Isabel Higgs of Thailand settled for bronze with 11.76 points.

Korea's Kanoa Heejae, who won the men's gold earlier, made the day sweeter, winning the Under-18 boys' gold as well, scoring 14.33 points.

Chinese duo of Shidong Wu (13.10) and Shulou Jiang (8) won the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

In the girls' U18 section, Siqi Yang of China dominated the field with 14.50 points to take the gold medal, and Shuhan Jin (10.33) made it a Chinese 1-2 in the event.

The bronze medal went to Thailand's Isabel (8.10 points). —*PTI*

An up-and-down England Test series: Karun Nair

SINGAPORE, 10 AUG

India batter Karun Nair on Sunday rued that he could not convert the starts he got in the recent Test series against England into big scores, but understands that letting those disappointments ebb away is important for him to return to his run-making ways.

Nair made 205 runs from four Tests at an average of 25 with just one fifty in his comeback series after an eight-year hiatus.

"I was disappointed at not being able to convert the start at The Oval (where he made a 57) into a century. But it was quite important to grind my way on that first day with the team in a tricky position. The nerves were there, but I was feeling good. I was hoping to convert, which I couldn't," Nair told ESPNCricinfo.

The Karnataka batter acknowledged that it was an "up and down series" for him, and was a disappointment after his big-scoring ways in domestic cricket earned him a berth in the national team.

"I did reflect a lot. But it's also important to let go of what has happened and look forward to what I need to do in the next few months. "It's about keeping my focus levels up and making sure I go on and make big scores, irrespective of the level I'm playing at," he added. —*PTI*

Karun Nair *PHOTO: PTI*

Diksha Dagar fights back to even par

LONDON, 10 AUG

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar survived a roller-coaster back nine to card an even par 73 in the second round of the PIF London Championship held at Centurion Club.

Diksha, who has had a series of Top-10s this season, is now Tied-13th after being Tied-10th at the end of the first day.

Of the four Indian women who teed up this week, three cut. The other two were Pranavi Urs and Aditi Ashok.

Pranavi (75-71) was even par for two days at the Par-73 Centurion Club and was Tied-28th. Aditi Ashok (73-74) was T-37 at 1-over for two rounds. Rookie Avani Prashanth (76-76) missed the cut. The cut fell at +3 with 65 players making it through to the final day of action at Centurion Club. —*PTI*

CHENNAI GRAND MASTERS 2025

Nihal beats Erigaisi; Keymer continues to lead

CHENNAI, 10 AUG

India's Nihal Sarin claimed his first win of the Chennai Grand Masters 2025 after he stunned top seed Arjun Erigaisi in a thrilling fourth-round encounter in Chennai on Sunday.

Having lost two of his first three games in the tournament, Sarin finally struck form against his higher-rated compatriot, as he bagged full points with white pieces in a match that lasted more than four hours and 70 moves.

Meanwhile, Germany's Vincent Keymer extended his lead in the standings with a clean draw against Dutch GM Anish Giri.

Vincent Keymer *PHOTO: PTI*

The match of the day, and possibly the tournament, was the one between Erigaisi and Sarin.

Following a Reti Opening start to the game, Erigaisi charged his h7 pawn down the rank. But it proved to be counter-productive as Sarin realigned his kingside defence to sway the balance of the match in his favour.

An off-colour Erigaisi continued to slide as he made a few ill-advised moves (18. Nfg4 and 22. Bf5), allowing Sarin a firmer grip in the game.

But Erigaisi clawed his way back to enter a mutual time scramble endgame. Sarin, though, relied on a combination of surplus pawns and a forking knight to outlast his opponent, who was down to just a rook in the end.

Nihal Sarin *PHOTO: PTI*

Erigaisi continues in second in the standings, but trails Keymer by a point with five rounds to go. —*PTI*

Japan's football legend Kamamoto dies at 81

TOKYO, 10 AUG

Kunishige Kamamoto, widely regarded as the best striker in Japanese football history after scoring an all-time men's record 75 goals in 76 games, died Sunday of pneumonia, the Japan Football Association said. He was 81., The Kyoto native won the bronze medal at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico, where he was the tournament's top scorer with seven goals, helping Japan achieve their best finish to date at the Summer Games., Known for his ferocious shot and all-around scoring abilities modeled on Portugal icon Eusebio, Kamamoto set a Japan Soccer League record with 202 goals and 79 assists and finished as the top scorer seven times during his 17-year career with Yanmar Diesel, now Cerezo Osaka, starting in 1967., He fell ill with viral hepatitis in 1969 as Japan failed to qualify for the 1970 World Cup, and Kamamoto missed the next two tournaments as well, something he recalled as "the only regret" of his career., A potential move to a German Bundesliga club, which would have made him the first Japanese player in Europe. —*PTI*

GILL DOMINATES ON SUNDAY, MARATHE SHINES IN SUMATERA UTARA RALLY

PARAPAT, 10 AUG

Three-time champion Gaurav Gill swept all six stages on the final day of the Sumatera Utara Rally, while debutant Vaibhav Marathe and rising star Nikeetaa Takkale clinched category titles, ensuring a strong Indian presence in the 2025 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship on Sunday.

For Gill, the day brought back memories of his breakthrough APRC victory in the same country in 2008. Driving with trademark precision and controlled aggression, the only Indian Arjuna Awardee in motorsport thrilled the sizeable local crowd, bagging full leg points and underlining his pursuit of a fourth APRC crown after his titles in 2013, 2016, and 2018. Gill suffered a penalty due to a mechanical failure in SS3 on Saturday, which eventually denied him a podium here. But he is on his way to the APRC finals in Japan, scheduled from November 6-8. Gill eventually finished overall sixth.

Gaurav Gill *PHOTO: X/@FIA*

The spotlight on Sunday belonged to Goa's Marathe of Team JK Racing and Pune's Takkale, the only Indian female driver representing Team Vamcy Merla Motorsports.

Making his APRC debut, Marathe, driving alongside experienced co-driver Ashwin Naik for Team JK Racing, stayed composed through the punishing terrain to clinch the RC3 title, his consistent pace and measured approach marking him out as a name to watch.

If Marathe's win was impressive, Takkale's performance was nothing short of stirring. In just her second APRC outing, the 24-year-old, partnering with Sudhindra Gopalakrishna, stormed to victory in both the RC4 category and the Ladies Class.

Combining finesse with fearlessness, she tackled the tricky Indonesian stages with the poise of a seasoned competitor, sending a powerful message to aspiring women racers back home. Her overall 29th meant she was ahead of 25 men with whom she fought on equal footing. —*PTI*

ASIAN U19 BOXING

Nisha, Muskan bag gold as India win nine medals

BANGKOK, 10 AUG

Nisha *PHOTO: X/@ACB*

India's young women pugilists underlined their growing prowess in continental boxing as Nisha (54kg) and Muskan (57kg) clinched gold, and five others won silver, at the U19 Asian Boxing Championships 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand, on Sunday.

Of the 10 women boxers in the U19 fray, nine will return with medals including 2 golds, 5 silvers, and 2 bronzes showcasing India's status as an emerging powerhouse alongside countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and China.Nisha opened India's gold medal account in the second bout of the day when she raised her level to dominate the third and final round against Sirui Yang of China to record a 4:1 win.

Muskan then made it two in a row for India, coming out with an aggressive approach and staving off Kazakhstan's Ayazhan Ermek in the subsequent rounds to get a 3:2 split verdict.Three more boxers will be in action in the men's finals later in the day.

India is also assured of 13 medals in the U22 category, with five boxers set to fight for gold on Monday.

Among the other Indian women contesting for gold on Sunday night, Vini went down against Sevara Mamatova of Uzbekistan in the 60kg final, while Arinda Akimoto of Japan got the better of Nisha 4:1 in the 65kg summit clash.

In the higher weight categories, Aarti Kumari (75kg) lost to Tongtong Gu of China, while Kritika Wasan's (80kg) last-round efforts were not enough to avoid a 2:3 loss against Kuralay Yeginbai kyzy of Kazakhstan. —*PTI*

Cincinnati Open: Sabalenka, Sinner through to 3rd round

CINCINNATI, 10 AUG

World number one Aryna Sabalenka saved 12 break points to survive her Cincinnati opener against Czech Marketa Vondrousova 7-5, 6-1 on Saturday, as the men's defending champion Jannik Sinner cruised past Colombian qualifier Daniel Galan 6-1, 6-1.

Sabalenka, who had a first-round bye, had not played since her semifinal defeat at Wimbledon and said the downtime served her well as she mounted a tremendous defensive effort to set up a meeting with Briton Emma Raducanu."I played so many matches this season, so I'm quite experienced in handling those key moments.

Key for me is always to go for it without doubting my decisions. So far, it's been working well," Sabalenka said. Raducanu made easy work of Serbian Olga Danilovic 6-3, 6-2 in her first match under new coach Francisco Roig, after a handful of confidence-building performances this summer that included a trip to the semifinals at the Washington Open."I'm building some momentum. —*PTI*